

# The Times

Evening Edition.

Head Office:—PARIS, No. 224, RUE DE RIVOLI.

Branch Offices:—LONDON, 168, STRAND; NICE, 15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

PARIS, SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMS

No. 20,750.—FOUNDED 1814

**TERMS:** PARIS.—A single journal, 8 sous; a week, 45c.; a fortnight, 85c.; a month, 1.00c.; three months, 2.80c.  
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**NICE.**—15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

## Great Britain.

LONDON, DECEMBER 29, 1881.

### PRINCE BISMARCK AND THE POPE.

So far as the rumours about German intervention in the Roman question refer to a projected restoration of the Pope's temporal power by the help of Germany they may be dismissed without further thought. It seems highly probable, however, that Prince Bismarck really has been viewed as a personification of the Pope and the Italian Government that the position of the former should be regulated by an international agreement, instead of, as now, by an Act of the Italian Parliament. There are obvious reasons which might make a settlement of this kind agreeable to several of the Powers. To the Pope it would restore a freedom of movement and action which he greatly values. Notwithstanding the excuses offered by the Italian Government for their inaction at the time of the removal of the Pope's body, it is impossible for the Pope to get home as he used to do without running great risk of insult. The police might arrest a large number of precaution which could ensure the Pope against insults being offered. If, however, the protection of the Pope's person devolved on the Italian Government by virtue of a municipal statute, it would be an international treaty, the Italian Government would be able to take such precautions as they knew to be necessary with a view to the Pope's safety. Even a papal official, if he were also a practical politician, would not wish to outrage the Pope at the cost of embroiling his country with foreign Powers. In return for this security the Pope might give to Italy the very great advantage of a reconciliation between the Government and the Church. The most conservative of forces would no longer be, as it now is, a revolutionary instrument. The Pope would have condoned the seizure of his temporal dominions, and in so doing he would have condoned the similar seizures which were effected at the expense of the Italian secular Princes. The connection between the Church and the principle of Legitimacy would be dissolved; and it would be no longer possible to argue that, as the Pope still denies the justice of the revolution which deprived him of his dominions, he must be understood by parity of reasoning to deny the justice of the revolutions which had subjected those secular Sovereigns to a similar fate. The authoritative upsetting of this theory would bring to the support of the Government a considerable number of Italians who now hold aloof from it. There has been some speculation on the part of the Italian papers as to the possibility of Prince Bismarck's effecting this change without giving offence to France. There is reason to think, however, that the French Government would be only less benefited by it than the Italian Government. An arrangement by which the Pope accepted the loss of his temporal power, and thereby condoned the infliction of similar losses on the Italian Princes, would be extremely distasteful to the French Legitimists. All these are but the subsidiary gains which Prince Bismarck might hope to reap from such an arrangement as has been suggested. His principal gain would be the conciliation of the Catholic party in Prussia and Germany on singularly easy conditions. At present the main difficulty which Prince Bismarck has to meet is the want of any sufficient inducement to Catholics to come to terms with the State. The Prince has been driven to modify the administration of the May Laws by circumstances which make it pretty certain that he will not again attempt to enforce them in their integrity. Consequently, when the German Catholics come to consider whether they shall accept his overtures, and vote as he shall direct, they see no particular reason why they should do so. The concessions the Chancellor has already made to them have been dictated by considerations of self-interest; and there is no reason to fear that they will be withdrawn even if the Catholic party continues to hold itself neutral in parliamentary conflicts. Men seldom feel grateful for the simple cessation of annoyance, and up to this time this is all that the German Catholics have had to thank Prince Bismarck for. But if he were to take the initiative in a transaction which would enable the Pope to come out of the Vatican, to visit the great basilicas, to be present at the great functions, and generally to appear in an attitude of visible triumph over his spiritual adversaries in the city in which he has for ten years lived the life of a recluse, German Catholics would really have something to be thankful for. No lingering love for Legitimist principles would be present to ally their satisfaction, and their votes would be given with the ardour that befits men who have the opportunity of showing genuine gratitude for a genuine service. Prince Bismarck may not be able to bring about an arrangement by which the immunities of the Pope in his character of Sovereign Pontiff shall be secured by an international instead of a municipal sanction; but he certainly has a very patent interest in effecting such an arrangement if it is possible for him to do so.—*St. James's Gazette.*

### THE IRISH LADIES IN DISTRESS.

The particulars of the work done by the Association for the Relief of Irish Ladies in Distress, as furnished to the Lord Mayor, are interesting but distressing. The recipients of succour obviously find the bread of charity bitter to taste, and it is almost pathetic to notice how they seem to crave for work rather than doles—work that they can do with their own hands, and which, comparatively useless as it may be in many cases, yet brings them money which they fondly fancy is its market value. Under this section of their operations the Relief Committee buy materials, and give them to poor gentlemen to make up into such garments as can subsequently be distributed among infirm and necessitous persons, to whom warm clothing during winter is indispensable. But there are many indigent ladies in Ireland who are too feeble to undertake even the lightest work, and the Association has to aid them with grants of money or loans. Since the foundation of the Association one hundred and sixteen claims have been considered, and grants or loans varying in amount from five to fifty pounds have been made to eighty-nine claimants. Of course, many more cases are awaiting consideration, and how cruelly the ladies in question must be suffering is indicated by a letter from an applicant to the Directors of the Fund. She is the widow of a clergyman, and entitled to twenty pounds a year of rent, and seventy-eight pounds a year on mortgage. During the last eighteen months her income has dwindled away to seven pounds. She has three daughters depending on her, one of them deprived of the use of her limbs through accident. This poor old lady is too feeble to work, and continued privation has evidently crushed her pride, because she frankly says that, if assisted, she does not see how she will ever be able to pay back what is advanced to her. Yet here is only one among hundreds of similar cases of destitution caused by the promulgation of the "No Rent" doctrine. Manifestly, the only thorough remedy for such suffering is to get in the rents, the non-payment of which has reduced so many innocent and gentlewomen to beggary. In that view every one who subscribes to the Property Defence Fund is also aiding the movement for the Relief of Irish Ladies in Distress; for there would be no distress amongst Irish ladies who are dependent on the returns from land for their slender incomes, if law were only powerful enough to make the land yield any return in the shape of rent to those who own it.—*Evening Standard.*

### NEWS FROM THE TRANSVAAL.

The Durban correspondent of the *Times*, telegraphing on Thursday, says:—  
The year closes with hopeful news from the Transvaal. I have just received advices from Pretoria which fully confirm my last statements as to the quiet character of the proceedings at Paarl and the 14th inst. A large dinner party was held at which the Landrost of Pretoria presided. Speeches were made by Messrs. Kruger, Joubert, Pretorius, and Jorissen, Mr. Hudson, the British Resident, and Chief Justice Kotze. A review was held on the Drakensberg on the 1st inst. The following was the chief feature of the gathering:—At 9 o'clock in the morning a gun was fired. The horses were instantly saddled, and the men, who were under arms, rushed up to the top of the surrounding hills and lined them. In all there were about 2,000 mounted men, and the same number on foot. At the front of a high central platform a cairn was built of stones thrown down by the patriotic visitors. The rising ground was covered with women and children. Just below were men on foot, round whom the horsemen swept with remarkable celerity. This encircling movement surprised all who witnessed it, and this, combined with the accuracy of their fire and their simple comradely arrangements, explains the enthusiasm which led to the Boer successes and to our disasters in the late war. The sound of the hymns of thanksgiving which were sung round this cairn and a solemn service performed before an altar which had been raised in honour of the people's struggle for freedom were most impressive. After this service there was a general dispersion homeward. Not less than 15,000 people are estimated to have assembled, of whom 4,000 were armed men on horse and on foot. The meeting reflected great credit on the promoters, for a more orderly and a more well-behaved one has certainly never been seen in Europe. It had been thought that Englishmen would not be able to show the same tact and the people view the Boers in showing kindly and hospitable treatment to all their English visitors. Politics ran high, particularly in the sermons, which were more like the fulminations of demagogues than the utterances of messengers of peace. My informant says the most bitter feeling was directed towards Colonel Lanyon, who was stigmatised as the author of all the troubles. The present form of government is regarded as merely temporary. The people look for the formation of a strong Government, mostly Afrikaners, headed by a good President. Chief Justice Kotze is in most favour with the majority, as being best fitted for the post by reason of his education, experience, unswerving integrity, and high character. He enjoys the implicit confidence of both the Dutch and English. The condition of the Transvaal is not so bad as it is represented to be. Though money is most scarce, prices keep up, and business is brisk. The Boers' fear of a native outbreak has now subsided, and the natives are coming in to work even from Mosop's tribe. English visitors are well received at Boer houses. A general complaint is made of the new taxes. The Delagoa Bay Railway project is likely to be revived. General Smythe arrived to-day at Durban from Cape Town.

### THE STATE OF IRELAND.

**THE IMPORTANT ARREST.**  
A Cork correspondent wrote on Thursday night:—  
Mr. Connell, a native of Millstreet, county Cork, a discharged soldier and at present in the militia, was arrested on Tuesday night, at Musherah, between Macroom and Millstreet, on a charge of having fired a shot at a policeman. He was in bed with two women, and the women were made. In his vest pocket some documents were found disclosing the fact that a diabolical plot had been arranged by "Captain Moonlight" and his gang to murder two farmers named Sullivan and Coakley, because it was supposed they had paid rent to the landlord, Mr. Barry and Mr. Sullivan's two daughters were to have their cut off to the bone, on account of one having spoken to a policeman, and the other for dealing in a shop of Mr. Haggarty, a Boycotted trader in Millstreet. Connell, who is believed to be the real "Captain Moonlight," was arrested in the house of a farmer named Shea, and in one of the outhouses a number of revolvers were found. A gold watch was found in the possession of the woman, which is believed to have been stolen from the house of a Mr. Cudmore when a raid was made on his dwelling at night some months ago. The most minute details were set forth in the document referred to above as to how the assassination of the two farmers was to be accomplished, and the date for the execution of the diabolical act was set down as the 30th of December, 1881. Connell is now in Cork County Gaol, and will be brought up at a special Court of Petty Sessions in a few days. It appears the two farmers had not paid their rent. Some important disclosures will in all probability be revealed at Connell's trial.

### THE CASE OF ALLEGED POISONING AT WIMBLEDON.

On Thursday afternoon Mr. Paget, at the Wandsworth Police-court, was charged with the charge against Dr. George Henry Lamson for causing the death of his brother-in-law, Percy Malcolm John, aged 19, a student at Blenheim-house, Wimbledon, by administering to him a dose of a capsule containing arsenic on the 31st inst. The same counsel appeared as before. Mr. Paget, at the last hearing of the case, suggested that an arrangement should be made to hear it at another court, on account of the limited time at his disposal. The prisoner had been communicated with Sir James Ingham, who had sent him a letter stating that he would proceed with the case at Bow-street. It was then proposed to hear witnesses as far as the time of the Court would allow. Mr. St. John Wontner, on behalf of the prosecution, stated that the analysis was substantially completed, and that traces of arsenic had been discovered. He also stated that experiments had been made with arsenic upon animals. John Edward Silling, an assistant to Messrs. John Henson and Co., chemists, Oxford-street, was the first witness called. He said that on the 11th of November last he made up a prescription for the prisoner, consisting of a solution of morphia and atropia. On the 16th he called again, and witness supplied him with a solution of morphia and atropia, and five grains of pure digitaline, which is the active principle of foxglove, and poisonous if taken in large quantities. The prisoner said it was for internal use. Witness did not supply him with it, as he had left his practice at that time. The prisoner asked for the sample more coloured than he expected. The prisoner promised to call again in a few days, by which time witness arranged to obtain some fresh digitaline from the warehouse. The prisoner called again, and asked for one grain of arsenic. Knowing it was an active poison, and as the prisoner said it was for internal use, he refused to serve him, and recommended him to procure it where he was better known. That was after consultation with another assistant. At the visit on the 16th the prisoner said he had left his practice at that time. The prisoner asked for the sample more coloured than he expected. The prisoner promised to call again in a few days, by which time witness arranged to obtain some fresh digitaline from the warehouse. The prisoner called again, and asked for one grain of arsenic. Knowing it was an active poison, and as the prisoner said it was for internal use, he refused to serve him, and recommended him to procure it where he was better known. That was after consultation with another assistant. At the visit on the 16th the prisoner said he had left his practice at that time. The prisoner asked for the sample more coloured than he expected. 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# Complete Edition

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Head Office:—PARIS, No. 224, RUE DE RIVOLI.

Branch Offices:—LONDON, 168, STRAND; NICE, 15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

PARIS, MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

No. 20,751.—FOUNDED 1814.

TERMS:—PARIS.—A single journal, 8 sous; a week, 3fr. 50c.; a fortnight, 5fr.; one month, 10fr.; three months, 28fr.

FRANCE.—A single journal, 9 sous; 1 month, 11fr.; 3 months, 32fr.; 6 months, 62fr.; a year, 120fr.

EUROPE, UNITED STATES, COLONIES.—A single journal, 9 sous; 3fr.; 6fr.; 12fr.

INDIA, CHINA, THE COLONIES.—21 fr. 0d.; 23 fr. 0d.; 25 fr. 0d.

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LONDON.—Advertisements and Subscriptions received at the Special Office of "The London Gazette," 168, Strand; also at G. L. B. & Co., 10, rue de la Harpe, Paris; and at G. L. B. & Co., 10, rue de la Harpe, Paris; and at G. L. B. & Co., 10, rue de la Harpe, Paris.

NICE.—15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

**Great-Britain.**

LONDON, DEC 31, 1881.—JAN. 1, 1882.

### THE OLD YEAR.

The Times says:—The year 1881, though not distinguished by wars or revolutionary changes of the first magnitude, presents a record of memorable and important events in almost every country in the world. At home the Irish difficulty has grown to the most formidable proportions; British agriculture, already sorely smitten, has had to bear the keen disappointment of another unfavourable harvest. France has been drawn into the perilous labyrinth of the Tunisian expedition, while in her domestic politics the Republic has lost much of the character for moderation. In Germany, as in France, and also in Holland, in Belgium, in Spain, in Hungary, and in Bulgaria, public opinion has been agitated by general elections; political feuds have been embittered and the dominance of Prince Bismarck threatened. Though the different countries of Europe have had their internal troubles, the international relations of the great Powers have been more tranquil and easy than at any time since the battle of Sadova.

The Spectator says:—Politically speaking, the past year has certainly been the most disagreeable of years, though neither the most calamitous nor the most devoid of promise. It has been a year of continual disappointment; the disappointment in the seasons has been but a symbol of our disappointments in political life. Even the best work of the year has been dashed with serious disappointment. The least sanguine of us looked—no doubt, unreasonably—for more result before the year closed than we have actually had. There is no European country but Greece which can definitely congratulate itself on the course of its events, and we have certainly a picture of disagreeables—especially in relation to the development of the parliamentary institutions of Europe—which, though very far from being of a nature to create despair, distinguishes 1881 as the year of most persistent disappointment of any year within our recollection. For apparent *coup manqués*, England, France, Germany, Russia, and the United States will remember the year just closing to a close.

The Saturday Review thinks the death of Lord Beaconsfield will perhaps henceforth serve as a date for a great change in English policy. In no previous year has the progress of revolution been more distinctly visible. To the public it has been a year of much pain, little satisfaction, and many losses; and a hope that the new year may be a brighter one may this time be expressed with more than ordinary fervour and sincerity.

The Daily Telegraph says:—A truce has been called as regards the old points of home politics. In India there is tranquillity, and in Afghanistan a truce; in the rest of our Empire, outside Ireland, comparative prosperity and complete peace. So close 1881. Socially, there may have been better, and certainly there have been worse years than that of which we take our final leave to-night. Perhaps it is in the steady development of electricity that 1881 has been scientifically most remarkable.

The Standard thinks that the old year will be memorable as one of the most lamentable in our domestic annals. It began in gloom, it ends in gloom; and as yet there is no rift in the dark cloud that has overshadowed us. Looking back upon the year as a whole, it offers little in the nature of consolation, and it leaves us with a prospect which is neither hopeful nor encouraging.

The Daily News says:—At home and in our various colonies there is the reality or the prospect of peace. It has been restored in Asia and Africa. The annals of our American and Australasian colonies have the blankness of prosperity and repose. Even in Ireland there are grounds of hope.

### PRINCE BISMARCK AND THE POPE.

So far as the rumours about German intervention in the Roman question refer to a projected restoration of the Pope's temporal power by the help of Germany they may be dismissed without further thought. It seems highly probable, however, that Prince Bismarck really has in view an intervention of another kind, and that he has proposed to the Pope and the Italian Government that the position of the former should be regulated by an international agreement, instead of, as now, by an Act of the Italian Parliament. There are obvious reasons which might make a settlement of this kind agreeable to several of the Powers. To the Pope it would restore a freedom of movement and action which he greatly values. Notwithstanding the excuses offered by the Italian Government for their inaction at the time of the removal of the late Pope's body, it is impossible for the Pope to go about Rome as he used to do without running great risk of insult. The police might arrest a few rioters after the offence had been committed; but they would not take those large measures of precaution which could alone ensure the Pope against insults being offered. If, however, the protection of the Pope's person devolved on the Italian Government by virtue not of an Italian statute but of an international treaty, the Italian Government would be able

to take such precautions as they knew to be necessary with a very much better grace. Even an Italian Radical—if he were also a practical politician—would not wish to outrage the Pope at the cost of embroiling his country with foreign Powers. In return for this security the Pope might give to Italy the very great advantage of a reconciliation between the Government and the Church. The most conservative of forces would no longer be, as it is now, a revolutionary instrument. The Pope would have condoned the seizure of his temporal dominions, and in so doing he would have condoned the similar seizures which were effected at the expense of the Italian secular Princes. The connection between the Church and the principle of Legitimacy would be dissolved; and it would be no longer possible to argue that, as the Pope still denies the justice of the revolution which deprived him of his dominions, he must be understood by parity of reasoning to deny the justice of the revolutions which had subjected those secular Sovereigns to a similar fate. The authoritative upsetting of this theory would bring to the support of the Government a considerable number of Italians who now hold aloof from it. There has been some speculation on the part of the Italian papers as to the possibility of Prince Bismarck's effecting this change without giving offence to France. There is reason to think, however, that the French Government would be only less benefited by it than the Italian Government. An arrangement by which the Pope accepted the loss of his temporal power, and thereby condoned the infliction of similar losses on the Italian Princes, would be extremely distasteful to the French Legitimists. All these are but the subsidiary gains which Prince Bismarck might hope to reap from such an arrangement as has been suggested. His principal gain would be the conciliation of the Catholic party in Prussia and Germany on singularly easy conditions. At present the main difficulty which Prince Bismarck has to meet is the want of any sufficient inducement to Catholics to come to terms with the State. The Prince has been driven to modify the administration of the May Laws by circumstances which make it pretty certain that he will not again attempt to enforce them in their integrity. Consequently, when the German Catholics come to consider whether they shall accept his overtures, and vote as he shall direct, they see no particular reason why they should do so. The concessions the Chancellor has already made to them have been dictated by considerations of self-interest; and there is no reason to fear that they will be withdrawn even if the Catholic party continues to hold itself neutral in parliamentary conflicts. Men seldom feel grateful for the simple cessation of annoyance, and up to this time this is all that the German Catholics have had to thank Prince Bismarck for. But if he were to take the initiative in a transaction which would enable the Pope to come out of the Vatican, to visit the great basilicas, to be present at the great functions, and generally to appear in an attitude of visible triumph over his spiritual adversaries in the city in which he has for ten years lived the life of a recluse, German Catholics would really have something to be thankful for. No lingering love for Legitimist principles would be present to alloy their satisfaction, and their votes would be given with the ardour that befits men who have the opportunity of showing genuine gratitude for a genuine service. Prince Bismarck may not be able to bring about an arrangement by which the immunities of the Pope in his character of Sovereign Pontiff shall be secured by an international agreement of a municipal sanction; but he certainly has a very patent interest in effecting such an arrangement if it is possible for him to do so.—*St. James's Gazette.*

### MR. HERBERT GLADSTONE ON THE STATE OF IRELAND.

Some of Mr. Herbert Gladstone's statements in his recent speech at Manchester having been challenged by a speaker at a Conservative meeting, a gentleman at Staleybridge called Mr. Gladstone's attention to the subject, and has received a reply, in which Mr. H. Gladstone says:—In answer to your questions, I have to say that for nearly 20 years I have been travelling through the west—county Kerry, Limerick, Clare, and Galway; that I was continually moving about the country by night, as well as by day; that I was usually alone; that I carried an escort, armed or unarmed; and that my name was almost invariably known to the people of the places where I stayed, as my movements were reported almost daily in the local papers. What I said at Manchester about the absolute safety of strangers in Ireland is, I think, a fair statement of the facts. The difference in regard to this point between Mr. Croston and myself seems to be merely this—that I, speaking from personal experience, have given a literally accurate account of what a stranger who travels in Ireland may expect to encounter; and that Mr. Croston, having no experience at all, has given to the enlightened Tories of Millbrook his own view (based apparently on a newspaper report), which represents the state of Ireland to be tenfold worse than reality, and which is almost entirely false.

### THE IRISH LADIES IN DISTRESS.

The particulars of the work done by the Association for the Relief of Irish Ladies in Distress, as furnished to the Lord Mayor, are interesting and distressing. The recipients of succour obviously find the bread of charity bitter to taste, and it is almost pathetic to notice how they seem to crave for work rather than doles—work that they can do with their own hands, and which, comparatively useless as it may be in many cases, yet brings them money which they fondly fancy is its market value.

Under this section of their operations the Relief Committee buy materials, and give them to poor girls, and to the widows of men who have been killed in the war, to make up into such garments as can subsequently be distributed among infirm and necessitous persons, to whom warm clothing during winter is indispensable. But there are many indigent ladies in Ireland who are too feeble to undertake even the lightest work, and the Association has to do directly with grants of money or loans directly. Since the foundation of the Association one hundred and sixteen claims have been considered, and grants of loans varying in amount from five to fifty pounds have been made to eighty-nine claimants. Of course, many more cases are awaiting consideration, and how cruelly the ladies in question must be suffering is indicated by a letter from an applicant to the Directors of the Fund. 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# The Times

MORNING EDITION.

Head Office:—PARIS, No. 224, RUE DE RIVOLI.

Branch Offices:—LONDON, 168, STRAND; NICE, 15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

PARIS, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1882.

PRICE 60 CENTIMES

No. 20,753.—FOUNDED 1814.

**TERMS:** PARIS.—A single journal, 8 sous; a week, 2fr. 50c.; a fortnight, 5fr.; one month, 10fr.; three months, 28fr.  
FRANCE.—A single journal, 9 sous; 1 month, 11fr.; 3 months, 33fr.; 6 months, 63fr.; a year, 120fr.  
EUROPE, UNITED STATES, COLONIES.—A single journal, 9 sous; 2fr.; 6fr.; 12fr.  
INDIA, CHINA, THE COLONIES.—21 fr. 60c.; 23 fr. 60c.; 25 fr. 60c.  
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**Births, Deaths, and Marriages:** 2fr. a line.  
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**LONDON:—Advertisements and Subscriptions received at the Special Office, "The Times," 168, Strand; also by G. SERRAT, 20, Cornhill; BATES, HEVLY and Co., 4, Old Jewry; SMITH and SONS, 188, Strand; E. C. JONES and Co., 10, Abchurch Lane; General Post-office: P. L. MAY and Co., 160, Piccadilly; DELLEY, DAVIES and Co., 1, Finch Lane.**  
**NICE:—15, QUAI MASSÉNA.**

## Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 2-3, 1882.

### THE ANGLO-FRENCH TREATY.

Probably the political results of the anticipated failure of the Treaty negotiations will be greater in France than in England. Mr. Gladstone, devoted as he is known to be, to Free Trade and to international peace, will gain rather than lose by the attitude of his negotiators. It will be seen that he knows how to be firm, and that he is resolved to make no further concessions even for the sake of that *entente cordiale*, a regard for which he inherits from his old leader Lord Aberdeen. There is little likelihood that any taint will be addressed to our Minister for a result which no reasonable concession on his part could avert. In France the scattered and discordant Opposition are not likely to be so reticent. Many shades of journalists, from the purest Legitimist to the deepest of the "Red," will be delighted to characterise this as another of M. Gambetta's "failures," and it will certainly be awkward that negotiations which hung fire because of his expected accession should collapse altogether almost as soon as he takes the reins. French trade and speculation are remarkably sensitive, and the fear of a war of tariffs will certainly arise. For the two countries will recover their freedom, and will stand in the fiscal position they occupied when Mr. Cobden had his first interview with Napoleon III. There is, however, very little chance of a return to the tariff of 1855, for we have gone long beyond the elementary idea that a nation which the more it shuts out products from abroad, the more it prospers. With a few limited exceptions, Mr. Gladstone abolished totally all duties upon all imported manufactures. "There will be," he said, "a sweep summary, entire, and absolute, of all such goods from the British tariff." That change was final; there is not the remotest chance that under any idea of retaliation we shall re-impose a single item of the taxes on imports then removed. As regards, however, the change in the wine duties effected in 1860, in accordance with the Treaty, not only shall we be released from the obligations of that instrument, but it would be quite practicable to modify rather than reverse our proceedings twenty-one years ago. It must be remembered that at that time we not only reduced the wine duty, but adopted a sliding scale with reference to alcoholic strength. This was a distinct concession to France. Just as our Bradford and Manchester manufacturers desire *ad valorem* duties because they can beat the world in low-priced goods, the growers of the South of France wished for an alcoholic scale, because in cheap "weak" wines they are unrivalled. As an equal, tariff on all "cottons" or "woollens" taken in the mass shuts out our coarser goods, so a fixed duty on wine as wine operates in favour of the stronger and dearer liquors of Spain and Portugal, and proportionately against the cheap vintages of the Gironde. The recovery of our liberty as regards wine would enable the English Government to make changes not in the slightest degree opposed to the principles of Free Trade, but still operating to the disadvantage of the French growers. If all wines are admitted at a fixed duty per gallon without reference to strength, the dearer and more alcoholic liquors of Spain will gain in competition with the cheaper wines of France now admitted at a reduced duty. We shall be perfectly free either to level up or to level down. As Mr. Chamberlain said last August, "If the Treaty negotiations with France should break down, the English Government would be perfectly justified in dealing with the wine and spirit duties as they thought best for the interests of that country." He also pointed out, quite independently of revenue considerations, we might raise the duties on present duty—varied as regards the degrees of proof spirit—practically admits nearly all French claret at a shilling a gallon, and imposes on all sherries and ports two and sixpence a gallon at least. Were we to raise the latter duty we should sensibly diminish the export of French wine to England; the cheaper clarets could not pay half a crown a gallon and be sold here at their present rate. Is M. Gambetta prepared to face the discomfiture of the South, the very districts that produce not only the greatest quantities of wine, but the fiercest politicians, as the annals of the country for three generations abundantly attest? Then, as regards spirits, in 1859 we levied a duty on their import of fifteen shillings a gallon; we now levy a little over ten shillings a gallon. Were we to revert to the tariff of twenty-one years ago as regards all alcoholic beverages Mr. Gladstone would be supported by the advocates of temperance, by the friends of British industry, and by men of all shades of politics. "We don't want to fight," he said, "but if driven to retaliation we should be united as one man." It will be for the French to consider manufacturers they will imperil a commerce which has advanced from fourteen millions a year of French products sold to England before the Treaty to an annual average of forty-two millions during the last few years. On international grounds generally anything that diminishes cordiality between the two

countries is to be regretted. France especially has much to apprehend from isolation. She is not in the position in which she stood in 1860, when the Emperor Napoleon, victor in two great wars, had raised her to a commanding though dangerous eminence. Then no Germany existed to dispute with her the supremacy of Europe, and Russia and Austria had not only felt her power but were suitors for her alliance. At present she feels the results of 1870 in every direction, and England is the only Great Power on whose friendly feelings she can securely count. The real interests of the two countries are not opposed in any direction, and in Egypt both have a distinct gain in maintaining the *status quo* and in agreeing to exclude more or less all other European influence. If, however, the spirit which suggested and still sustains the Tunis expedition, and which has animated the negotiators in Paris last week, continues to prevail, English policy will suffer an avoidable change. We shall be drawn towards Germany, Austria, and Italy, to the ultimate isolation of France. She, not we, would suffer most were Egypt to glide from under its present dual into a new international Protectorate, and in anything like a general Council of States she would find herself "severely alone." The policy of expansion and adventure that suited France for a time under the two Emperors seems greatly out of place now. Europe is very different from what it was in 1811 or 1860. France itself is quite as strong, if not stronger, but her rivals have augmented their powers far beyond the proportion of her advance.—*Daily Telegraph.*

### THE LADIES' LAND LEAGUE AND THE GOVERNMENT.

The Government have at last arrested three or four of the members of the Ladies' Land League. There was no alternative. The Irish Executive was prepared to stultify itself in the opinion of the public on both sides of St. George's Channel. The Ladies' Land League was declared illegal, and was, therefore, *ipso facto* suppressed ten days ago. Miss Parnell and the other members of the seditious Sisterhood defied the Proclamation, and when they did not ignore it, noticed it only to denounce it. On Sunday they held a meeting in Dublin avowedly as a challenge to the Government, and it was publicly stated that similar assemblages of all the Branches of the Association would take place on every Sunday "as a protest against the disposition of the police to make laws according to their own fancy." This left the Government no option. When women ostentatiously enrol themselves in the lists of the party hostile to law and order, there is only one rule which those who are responsible for the enforcement of order and law can observe. The Executive in matters of this kind can no more be a respecter of sex than of persons. An agitation led by revolutionary Amazons is as perilous a threat to the public peace as any of the promoters of the wearers of frock coats or corsetry jackets. The *Petroleuses* did more mischief than the *Petroleuses*, and when women deliberately unsex themselves for political or any other reasons, they can neither claim nor receive much sentimental consideration. The lady Land Leaguers had fair warning, and if there is a fault to be found with the Government it is not that they have acted too quickly, but that they did not give some unmistakable sign of their resolution to act a little earlier. This, indeed, is the error which Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet has committed too often. It has deliberated too long; it has carried out its resolutions too late. Ireland is no suitable field for the display of Fabian tactics. The Government were perfectly free to choose their own opportunity. If, immediately after the circular declaring the Ladies' Land League illegal had been formally defied by Miss Parnell, the authorities had unmistakably shown their determination not to allow those who mocked and disobeyed the law to go unpunished, it is probable that the present disagreeable necessity would not have been forced upon them. The lady Leaguers presumed upon the hesitations of the Executive, and the repeated injustice of the Government in the past justified their doing so. Hence it is that we are witnessing a new illustration of a familiar rule. The consequence of the failure to renew the Peace Preservation Act was the strongest Coercion Act known for half a century, and the wholesale arrest of suspects; the consequence of Miss Parnell's depreciation of the vigorous intentions of the Government is the commitment of several ladies to prison who were probably never serious competitors for the crown of martyrdom.—*Standard.*

### THE ROMAN QUESTION.

THE ROMAN QUESTION. The Vienna correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Monday night:—The Papal Nuncio, Monsignore Vanetti, to whom I made a New Year's visit to-day, commented, in the course of conversation, upon the articles in the *Diritto* and the statements made in the semi-official German papers. His Excellency said that he knew nothing of the alleged negotiations concerning the position of the Pope, beyond the unwarranted rumours which had found their way into print. If there had been any substantial basis for these rumours he would have heard of them, seeing that the Court of Vienna was friendly to the Vatican; he was, however, acquainted with the Court of Vienna from Rome, which could justify the irritation manifested by the *Diritto* on the subject, or which could be considered as a substantial fact. "I believe," said the Monsignore, "that nobody here knows more about the matter than myself. The question is, no doubt, a natural one, but up to the present, though perhaps ideas and intentions exist in regard to it, these have not yet been translated into action. I have heard, however, continued the Monsignore, "from friends in Rome, that plans have been broached for dealing with the difficulty in which, since 1870, both Italy and the Pope have been placed." I remarked that the Law of Guarantees was intended to solve this difficult problem. The Nuncio answered, "That is doubtful. I had," said he, "a conversation recently upon this subject with one of my colleagues who knows Italy perfectly well, and also the general drift of the politics. The substance of this conversation," added the Monsignore, "may interest you. My colleague observed that there does not exist in Italy a statesman, including even Signor Depretis, who would not gladly change the Roman capital if he could decently do so. Before

the occupation of Rome, Italy could choose her allies freely, as becomes an independent State. Now, being mixed up with the Papal Question, she must necessarily suffer from every dispute arises in which the Roman Church is concerned. Her alliances depend more or less upon the good or ill will of the Powers towards the Pope. This would no longer be the case if the Pope were in possession of an independent territory. Only then would Italy become a really powerful State. "It has been urged," said my colleague, "that this could only be brought about after a war; but the idea is erroneous. Italian statesmen, perhaps, will not see the difficulty, and the risk of undoing what has already been done, more especially as the necessity of obtaining Rome as the capital of Italy had, before the occupation in 1870, become the watchword of the Italian revolutionists. These, perhaps, will not see the difficulty, and the risk of undoing what has already been done, more especially as the necessity of obtaining Rome as the capital of Italy had, before the occupation in 1870, become the watchword of the Italian revolutionists. These, perhaps, will not see the difficulty, and the risk of undoing what has already been done, more especially as the necessity of obtaining Rome as the capital of Italy had, before the occupation in 1870, become the watchword of the Italian revolutionists.

"Does your Excellency," I inquired, "share these opinions?" He replied, "There is much force in them. I asked, 'What concessions, in your opinion, would be necessary to bring about a reconciliation between the Church and Italy?' He answered, 'I have no authority to speak upon the matter, and should hardly like to give an opinion as a representative of the Italian Statesmen, acting under the pressure of necessity, would speedily find a means of solving the problem in a manner that would do the Pope no harm, and which would be a really independent Power.' " "Does your Excellency," I inquired, "share these opinions?" He replied, "There is much force in them. I asked, 'What concessions, in your opinion, would be necessary to bring about a reconciliation between the Church and Italy?' He answered, 'I have no authority to speak upon the matter, and should hardly like to give an opinion as a representative of the Italian Statesmen, acting under the pressure of necessity, would speedily find a means of solving the problem in a manner that would do the Pope no harm, and which would be a really independent Power.' " "Does your Excellency," I inquired, "share these opinions?" He replied, "There is much force in them. I asked, 'What concessions, in your opinion, would be necessary to bring about a reconciliation between the Church and Italy?' He answered, 'I have no authority to speak upon the matter, and should hardly like to give an opinion as a representative of the Italian Statesmen, acting under the pressure of necessity, would speedily find a means of solving the problem in a manner that would do the Pope no harm, and which would be a really independent Power.' "

### PROGRAMME OF THE NATIONAL PARTY OF EGYPT.

The Syed Ahmed Bey Arabi sends to the *Times* the following exposition of the views and purposes of the party of which he has become the leader:—CAIRO, Dec. 18. 1. The National party of Egypt accept the existing relations of Egypt with the Porte as the basis of their policy. They do not desire to alter the status of Egypt as a province of the Ottoman Empire, but they do desire to see Egypt governed by Egyptians, and to see the Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan as their Suzerain and Lord and as actual Caliph or head of the Mussulman religion; nor do they propose, while his Empire stands, to alter this relationship. They admit the right of the Porte to send troops to Egypt for the purpose of maintaining the law and order, and to see the Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan as their Suzerain and Lord and as actual Caliph or head of the Mussulman religion; nor do they propose, while his Empire stands, to alter this relationship. 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# Caliban's Evening Paper

Head Office:—PARIS, No. 224, RUE DE RIVOLI.

Branch Office:—LONDON, 168, STRAND; NICE, 15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

No. 20,756.—FOUNDED 1814.

PARIS, SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

**TERMS:**—A single journal, 8 sous; a week, 2fr. 50c.; a fortnight, 5fr.; a month, 16fr.; three months, 45fr.; six months, 85fr.; a year, 160fr. FRANCE.—A single journal, 9 sous; a month, 1fr. 15c.; three months, 3fr. 50c.; six months, 6fr. 50c.; a year, 12fr. 50c. EUROPE, UNITED STATES, COLONIES.—A single journal, 9 sous; 3fr. 50c.; 6fr. 50c.; 12fr. 50c. INDIA, CHINA, THE COLONIES.—21 fr. 50c. ad. 25 fr. 50c. ad. 50 centimes a line, according to the number of insertions. Non under Three Francs.

**Advertisements:**—75, 60, 50 centimes a line, according to the number of insertions. Non under Three Francs.

**NOTICES:**—5fr. a line. — PARAGRAPHS, 5fr. a line.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:**—Can be transmitted direct by a cheque on LEONARD & PARIS, or by a Post-Office Order, to be procured at all the bureaux de poste in Europe and the UNITED STATES of AMERICA, also through the Messageries, Bankers, and Bookellers.

**LONDON:**—Advertisements and Subscriptions received at the Special Office of "Caliban's Messenger," 168, Strand; also by G. STREET, 30, Cornhill; BATES, HENRY and CO., 4, Old Jewry; SMITH and SOY, 180, Strand; E. C. COVEY and CO., St. Ann's-lane; General Post-office: F. L. MAY and CO., 160, Piccadilly; DELLEY, DAVIES and CO., 1, Finch-lane.

**NICE:**—15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

## Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 5-6, 1882.

### THE EUROPEAN PROSPECT.

The profound distrust which a succession of wars and rumours of wars has engendered in the public mind, and the obligation under which the Rulers of powerful States still seem to lie of maintaining vast bodies of men under arms, are quite enough to account for the nervous, we might almost say the credulous, anxiety so widely entertained concerning the long-continued preservation of public peace. But we have good ground for pointing out that there are not a few solid and satisfactory reasons for contemplating the general European Situation, as far as the issues of peace and war are concerned, with less concern than it appears to inspire in the breasts of many too nervous observers of Continental affairs. It is now nearly eleven years since peace was signed between Germany and France. How many people believed that so long a period would elapse without our having to witness the outbreak of a fresh conflict between these two Powers? Why has it not occurred? Why have so many confident prophecies been incorrect, and why has general expectation been baffled? It cannot be because France has failed to recover her strength to the degree that was expected of her. On the contrary, her recovery of strength, of wealth, and of organisation, has been so rapid that it has been regarded as little short of miraculous. On the other hand, it cannot be in consequence either of any subsidence of the fears of Germany lest the French people should again prove themselves formidable antagonists, seeing that nowhere is the power of France more respected than in the Fatherland. But so it is that as the years roll on the two countries seem to be farther off rather than nearer to a renewal of their old struggle, and at the present moment they seem less likely to fight than they were four or five years ago. The truth is, both France and Germany have to take other things into account beside their own policy, their own armies, and their own national sentiments. Were any one to confine his attention to the news from Italy, he might not unreasonably be led to conclude that from that country might at any moment proceed the spark that is to set Europe in a blaze. The Italians for a time cried out for that portion of their neighbours territory which pleased them to call Italia Irredenta. Then they professed themselves dissatisfied with the Treaty of Berlin. Next they were wounded and irritated by the action of France in Tunis. At the present moment the Pope is supposed to be causing them much anxiety. But on each of these occasions, some good and efficient reason can be discovered why the Italians are content to bark and abstain from biting. Just as Germany, before attacking France, or France before attacking Germany, would have to ascertain and allow for the disposition of other Powers, so Italy has been compelled to inquire if the preponderance of European strength could be secured for the assertion of the claims to the Trentino, for opposition to the French Protectorate in Tunis, or for dislike to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the whole, the Italians find that it is better to "sit still," just as France and Germany have found it better to sit still. No doubt a world of intrigues and conspiracies are in motion at the present moment, that more or less threaten the maintenance of European peace. But the persons who are intriguing have to get the balance of military power on their side before venturing to appeal to the sword; and this is by no means an easy operation. The various schemes, ambitious, and aspirations that are to be discerned on the Continent counterbalance each other. One State is deterred from getting its armies in motion out of fear or ignorance as to what neighbouring States would do if that decisive step were once taken. Thus, though the phrase "an armed camp" is still applicable to the Continent, the various Armies that constitute it may be regarded, in one sense, rather as police employed by the different States to watch each other. They are like our own army and constabulary in Ireland, which are purely defensive, and may remain purely defensive for an indefinite time. It will, perhaps, be said that this is to reduce their existence to an absurdity, since every State would be equally safe if no State maintained a large armed force. But it is an absurdity that is uncommonly like a truth; and if the Great Powers could be persuaded of it, the condition of mankind would be sensibly ameliorated. There is yet another reason for taking comfort amid all the ugly and disquieting rumours that reach us daily; and it is this. The great Continental Rulers have something more to think of besides setting large armies in motion for wars of aggression. Domestic politics in all these countries grow yearly more and more embarrassing and more and more pressing, and though it may be true that weak Governments sometimes resort to war to escape the embarrassments of peace, it is much more true, as a rule, that internal politics divert the attention both of rulers and the ruled from the territory and the affairs of their neighbours. Whether we regard M. Gambetta, Prince Bismarck, Count Kaloky, Signor Depretis, or General Ignatieff—they are abundantly

harassed just at present by domestic questions, and how to keep the peace at home may well occupy their thoughts far more than how to instigate war abroad. M. Gambetta has, after long procrastination, assumed the reins of power, but the event which was to bring consternation to Europe has only brought embarrassment to himself. Yet, difficult as may be the position in which he finds himself, his perplexities are exceeded by those of the Imperial Chancellor; while nobody would believe in the stability of the Cabinet presided over by Signor Depretis, were it not that Statesmen seem to have acquired the art of becoming a political fixture. All these considerations, and they might be added to serve to encourage the hope that though the cry of "Wolf!" is still perpetually being raised, it will still prove a false alarm. It would be unwise to cultivate an apathetic sense of security; but, as the German Emperor has once again declared, the political barometer on the Continent at present points to Fair—Standard.

### A NEW IDEAL OF GOVERNMENT.

The speeches delivered by Mr. Bright and Mr. Chamberlain supply but little matter for comment so far as their substance is concerned. The junior member for Birmingham seldom speaks indeed without addressing the public to a fuller acquaintance with his political temper and his ways of thought; and on Thursday night he was in an especially candid mood of self-disclosure. He lets us know exactly what is his ideal of good government, and in what respect our present imperfect system of legislation fails to satisfy it. That ideal is as nearly as possible framed upon the model of the organisation which Mr. Chamberlain has worked so successfully in the great town which he represents. On the one hand, there is "the people"—meaning thereby the electoral majority by whom Mr. Chamberlain's party was placed in power; on the other hand, there are the dozen or so of gentlemen who "meet in one room," and who constitute "the only members of the Government" whom Mr. Bright "knows about." There is, it is true, a Parliament also; but this body plays a very insignificant part in the great democratic scheme. It consists of a majority which is, or ought to be, the obedient instrument for carrying out the projects placed before them by that majority of delegates of "the people" who used to be called the Queen's Ministers; and of a minority which makes it its business to "obstruct" the execution of these projects, and which requires to be suppressed accordingly. What particular projects are to be placed before this minority is a matter within the exclusive cognizance of the junta aforesaid; they are contained in a "mandate" theoretically supposed to have been delivered to this little committee of autocrats, but in reality evolved by them out of a consciousness mysteriously furnished with an intuitive knowledge of the people's needs and wishes. There is obviously no place in this system for a deliberative assembly, or for the rights, privileges, or methods of procedure which such assemblies are wont to exercise and follow. It reduces all legislation and administration to a simple arrangement between two parties: the "people," meaning the chance majority of the electorate for the time being, and a committee of delegates acting under the authority of a sort of secret plebiscite. It is easy to understand the attractions which such a system possesses for politicians of Mr. Chamberlain's views and temper: what is not easily comprehension is how men calling themselves Liberals should fail to see in it the realization of an absolute tyranny as an individual despot, adept at the arts of the demagogue, has ever inflicted on a community.—*St. James's Gazette.*

Mr. Chamberlain's exposition of the difficulties which the existing rules of parliamentary procedure place in the way of legislation was characterised by his customary lucidity and force. Facts speak for themselves with an eloquence which no orator can rival; and Mr. Chamberlain, confining himself to a statement of indisputable facts, proved once more how necessary is the action which the Government is about to take. It is difficult to exaggerate the utter break-down of the parliamentary machine. Three years ago Lord Hartington pointed out that the restoration of the authority of Parliament was the necessary preliminary to any work of internal or social reform; for even then the accumulation arrears of legislation was passing rapidly into the stage of hopelessness. The work of restoration has been delayed so long that, to employ Lord Salisbury's metaphor, we cannot even get our bread and butter cut until we sharpen our sabre; for even non-party legislation is impossible until procedure is reformed. Yet probably the most intrepid reformer will shrink from the changes which will be required before the new code of procedure is made as effective as the unwritten law which prevailed before Obstruction was reduced to a system by Mr. Lowther and Mr. Parnell. The informal *clique* which was arranged between the Whigs and enforced by the rigorous discipline of party, and the inexorable canons of the social law to which all members used to bow, exercised an effective authority over the deliberations of the House of Commons, which no code that is likely to be accepted for some time yet can possibly exert. If we may judge from ministerial utterances, their proposals will not lack vigour; but here, as elsewhere, the most thoroughgoing proposals are most likely to be accepted by public opinion, because they only will be really efficient.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

### THE EGYPTIAN RIDDLE.

Egyptian news at present is little but a succession of conundrums. Arabi Bey has, it seems, been made Under-Secretary for War; and the military incident is regarded as closed by his appointment:—The announcement has a singularly accidental appearance, and no surprise need be felt if in a day or two the whole story is denounced as apocryphal. It is true, what becomes of that alarming military dictatorship which has hung like a thundercloud over Egyptian affairs? That an under-secretary should convert Arabi from an agitator into a harmless official is perhaps not improbable; but if the army, which does not share his emoluments, is thus suddenly reduced to submission, it is clear that the dangers so anxiously despatched upon during these last weeks have been wholly imaginary. A Gambettist agent energetically denies M. de Blotwitz's account of negotiations concern-

ing an Anglo-French interference; and, indeed, that arbiter of European destiny himself must perceive that it is scarcely worth while to move troops, when the whole affair can be settled by throwing a trifling sop to Arabi Bey. This too complete and opportune demonstration that at least two Cabinets have been distressing themselves about nothing, will leave, however, the suspicion that the puzzle has not yet been told the truth about the condition of Egyptian affairs. Meanwhile, Gordon Pacha states his views on the Egyptian question. Briefly, they are that Sheriff Pacha is not the man to be trusted, and that the integrity is unimpeachable, that it is ridiculous to expect any good thing from Tewfik, or any of the class to which he belongs; and that troubles were always inevitable from the chaotic and feeble nature of the system set up in Egypt by the Western Powers. For the prosperity of Egypt, about which we hear so much, Gordon Pacha laughs at it. The finances, he admits, are prosperous under Egyptian management, but the Egyptian people are as miserable as before. Arabi may be the humbug he is painted by some; but, at any rate, his leading ideas are enforced by this highly competent and independent witness. This country, so full of philanthropy where it is not called upon to meddle at all, is actually exploiting Egypt for its own benefit, without any genuine regard for the Fellahs. Its policy is fundamentally bad, and its interest, as well as the morality it is fond of professing, demands that it should make the encouragement of a national party in Egypt its first aim.—*Globe.*

### POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")  
The Prime Minister arrived at his official residence in Downing-street from Hawarden Castle on Thursday evening. He was joined at dinner by the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, who had just returned from London to attend the meeting of the Cabinet to-day (Friday).

We are requested to state that half of the net proceeds of the concert which will be given in aid of the great relief of the catastrophe at the Ring Theatre, Vienna, will be given by special despatch of Count Karolyi, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, to an English charity.

We learn that since Mr. Errington's private and unofficial mission to the Vatican, has come to an end, several other persons connected with Ireland have also, on their own responsibility, interviewed the authorities of the Papal Court in order to make known their views on Irish questions.

Some interesting intelligence received by the last mail from official quarters in the Cape Colony is much more encouraging with regard to the probable settlement of the serious difficulty with the Basutos. It is said that Mr. J. H. Moffat, the Government Commissioner, has been ordered to proceed to the Cape Colony in order to settle the matter.

Earl Granville came up to London on Thursday afternoon by mail train from Dover. He drove direct to the Foreign Office, and had an interview with Sir Charles Dilke.

Mr. Chamberlain's remains will be interred at the cemetery of St. Albans on Thursday morning from Paris, where he has been negotiating for a commercial treaty.

### COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, THURSDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by Lady Waterpark; and her Majesty walked with the Princess this morning. Lord Rowton and Lady Rowton were at the house of the Duke and Duchess of St. Albans yesterday.

Mr. Chamberlain's remains will be interred at the cemetery of St. Albans on Thursday morning from Paris, where he has been negotiating for a commercial treaty.

### THE TRANSVAAL GOLD FIELDS.

The Durban correspondent of the *Standard* says:—"As was expected, the action of the Volksraad in repealing the Proclamation throwing the Gold Fields open to all, and granting to Mr. Benjamin the entire monopoly of them, and thereby ruining the miners who are now working there, has given rise to intense excitement and indignation in that district. The Gold Fields are most flourishing, and the men engaged are doing well. By them the transference of their property to an individual is regarded as robbery. They are now working there, and have given rise to intense excitement and indignation in that district. The Gold Fields are most flourishing, and the men engaged are doing well. By them the transference of their property to an individual is regarded as robbery. They are now working there, and have given rise to intense excitement and indignation in that district. The Gold Fields are most flourishing, and the men engaged are doing well. 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MORNING EDITION.

Head Office:—PARIS, No. 224, RUE DE RIVOLI.

Branch Offices:—LONDON, 168, STRAND; NICE, 15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

No. 20,757.—FOUNDED 1814.

**TERMS:**—PARIS:—A single journal, 8 sous a week, 3fr. 50c.; a fortnight, 5fr.; one month, 10fr.; three months, 28fr.  
—FRANCE:—A single journal, 9 sous; 1 month, 11fr.; 3 months, 32fr.; 6 months, 62fr.; 1 year, 120fr.  
—EUROPE, UNITED STATES, COLONIES:—A single journal, 9 sous; 3fr.; 6fr.; 12fr.  
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**LONDON:**—Advertisements and Subscriptions received at the Special Office of "The Illustrated Times," 168, Strand; also by G. STREET, 30, Cornhill; BATES, 186, Strand; E. C. COVEY and Co., St. Ann's-lane, General Post-office; F. L. MAY and Co., 169, Piccadilly; DELUZY, DAVIES and Co., 1, Finch-lane.

**NICE:**—15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

## Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 7-8, 1882.

### ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

It is instructive to note the very different effect which the announcement of the failure of the Anglo-French negotiations has produced in England and in France respectively. With us the prevailing feeling is one of relief tempered with regret. We perfectly understand that our trade with France will suffer considerably from the operation of the new tariff. We quite expect that France will buy less of our products than she has done, and that the curtailment of the French demand will for a time be injurious to several branches of trade; and we are sorry that it should be so. But this injury, we are persuaded, will not be permanent. We are confident in our ability to open up new markets for the products which France may exclude more especially as alteration of her tariff will tend to divert trade into new routes, and at the same time, by increasing the cost of production in France, will make her less able to compete with us abroad. And, accordingly, the return of our Commissioners has not disturbed our equanimity. On the contrary, there is rather a feeling of relief that the worst is now known, and that the harassing uncertainty as to our future trade relations with France, by which business has too long been restricted and disorganised, has at length been removed. Not a word of disapproval of the action of the Government has been heard, but everywhere, and by men of all shades of political opinion, the course they have taken is cordially supported, and the Commissioners are accorded well-merited praise for the faithfulness with which they have expressed and given effect to the wishes of the country. In France, on the other hand, the rupture of the negotiations has caused a great flutter of excitement. The present and the past Government alike are being blamed for want of skill or knowledge in their conduct of affairs. Recriminations and reproaches are being bandied about, and in many quarters very serious alarm is expressed as to the effect upon French commerce of the lapsing of the existing treaty. And there are good reasons why the failure to conclude a treaty should be regarded much more seriously in France than it is in England. To begin with, we buy much more from her than she does from us. On an average of years she has imported from us goods to the value of about £24,000,000 per annum, and has sent us goods to the value of about £10,000,000. Nor is it only that we are the better customer of the two; our custom is also far more essential to France than hers is to us. We take between a sixth and a seventh of her total exports, while she takes only about a twelfth part of ours. Our exports to her, moreover, consist mainly of necessities for which, if she does not buy them, we shall doubtless be able to find other purchasers. Her exports to us, on the other hand, are largely made up of luxuries for which it will be difficult to find other markets. Both in regard to quality and to kind, therefore, our purchases are vastly more important to her than hers are to us, and from a simultaneous curtailment of purchases such as is only too likely to take place, she will certainly suffer most. It is almost inevitable, with England must involve inability on the part of the French Government to ratify treaties provisionally arranged with other nations, and to which it is to be presumed France attaches considerable importance, as otherwise she would not have entered into them. If, for instance, the treaty with Belgium is ratified, the result will be that goods from Belgium will pay much lower duties than those levied upon our products under the general tariff. And, as a consequence of this, no matter how much the French authorities may strive to prevent it, English goods will be sent into France through Belgium. Such an alteration in the course of trade, however, would obviously be very injurious to the French ports, from which it would divert traffic, and if the Protectionist party in the Chambers are reinforced, as they are certain to be by those interested in the prosperity of the seaports, they are likely to be able to prevent the ratification of the Belgian Treaty if, indeed, the Government does not of its own accord abandon it. It would, of course, be different if England and France agreed to accord each other the most favoured nation treatment. Then traffic between the two nations, although diminished in volume, would, in the main, continue to flow in the old channel. But this solution of the difficulty appears to be unacceptable to the French Government, and, failing it, the Belgian and possibly other treaties seem to have a poor chance of ratification. There is the probability, also, that by imposing heavy burdens upon our products, France will deprive herself of some portion of her present tariff revenue. It is notorious that considerable quantities of English goods are now sent into Italy and Spain through France, and the tendency of the new general tariff must be to convert this indirect into a direct trade with us, especially as we have it in our power greatly to assist such a movement. The lapsing of the existing French treaty will leave us free to deal as we think best with our wine duties, and by a modification of these we

can do much to develop trade with Spain and Italy. As the result of our altered relations with France, it will probably be best for us to abandon all thought of reducing the duty on light wines below the minimum of 1s. per gallon. For the sacrifice of revenue which a reduction, say to a minimum of 6d. a gallon, would entail, the stimulus to an increased consumption of non-intoxicating wines, beneficial though that might be, would not in itself afford an adequate compensation. It may, indeed, be doubted whether a reduction of 6d. a gallon would ever reach the consumer, and, in any case, if only the social benefits to be derived from the increased consumption of such beverages are to be considered, it cannot be doubted that we have other and better ways of disposing of any surplus revenue. But if by a reduction in the scale for wines exceeding 26 degrees of alcoholic strength we can stimulate our trade with other nations of Southern Europe, and also with our own colonies, the reduction ought certainly to be made, especially as it is admitted that the present jump from 1s. on a wine of 26 degrees to 2s. 6d. on one which may only exceed that strength by a degree or two is bad in theory and pernicious in practice. It is to be hoped, therefore, that our Government will have no time in availing itself of its newly acquired freedom. It can now negotiate with Spain and Italy with less restraint than formerly, and as both are anxious to conclude treaties with us, agreements calculated to develop our commercial intercourse with them and to bring direct trade which now is transacted through France are more likely than before to be concluded.—*Economist.*

### THE REFORM OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE.

The Standard says:—The Cabinet met on Friday, and separated without arriving at any definite conclusion as to the form in which the *clature* is to be proposed to the House of Commons next session. Mr. Gladstone will certainly propose an arrangement by which questions asked of Ministers before the House proceeds to the Orders of the Day may be grouped under heads that will naturally suggest themselves. It may be said with equal confidence that the Cabinet will endorse the proposals of the Speaker and Sir Erskine May to prohibit motions for adjournment at question time, except under special and rare conditions. The suggestions are reasonable enough. But it must be clearly understood that the *clature* in any shape, and whatever the modifications which it may assume, must involve a very extensive disfranchisement of the constituency by which it is to be elected by closing the mouths of the Opposition at the will of Ministers is simply to hand over the government of the country bodily to the majority for the time being, without limit of time. Ministers insist upon a power for which there is no precedent in our political history. They confess that they are unable to administer the affairs of the nation unless they have not only a parliamentary majority, but a parliamentary minority which is virtually muzzled. This is not popular rule; it is the autocracy of a numerical accident.

The Times thinks that a drastic party measure for the revision of the whole system of Parliamentary procedure would inevitably provoke serious resistance not merely in the ranks of the Opposition, and would probably waste another session in sterile and exasperating controversy. There are thus two alternatives before the Government. Either they may consent to sacrifice the greater part of the session to the reform of the procedure of the House, in which case probably most of the bills in the Chamberlain and other Ministers will have to be put back once more into their box; or, having dealt with obstruction at the outset, they may offer a well-considered programme of legislation admitted to be necessary, and employ their whole strength in carrying it through. There can be very little difficulty in framing such a programme; indeed, the main difficulty would lie in the necessary task of selection.

The Spectator thinks that the right of *clature* is not the tyrannical power of putting down minorities, but simply and solely the right of preventing unreasonable minorities from fighting against time to baffle the will of the majority, and wear out the physical power of the House. We ask nothing from a Liberal Government which we should not have been equally willing to give to a Conservative Government of any kind of Government possible in England. What is wanted is a new power of squeezing the talk of the House within the limits needful to render action possible. The cry about minorities and liberty is all purely misleading. A steward must have some control of that to which his stewardship relates. When Lord Derby proposes to require three-fourths of the whole House to acquiesce in any vote limiting the time of discussion, he proposes to render the leader of the House virtually helpless in the matter.

The Saturday Review says:—The application of the borrowed contrivance of Grand Committees has a plausible and symmetrical appearance. In practice, the plan would be subject to the drawback of allowing facilities to professional experts of skill in dealing with political puzzles. The vote of every member of a party would be dictated by some authority corresponding to the whip; and the Committees would be as effectually packed as if they were appointed by the Carlton or the Reform Club. By a necessary consequence, either the House of Commons would abdicate its principal function or every decision of a Committee would be reopened in the House.

### THE POLITICAL PROSPECT.

The Saturday Review, discussing the political prospect at the commencement of a new year, remarks:—It cannot be said that politics wear a cheerful aspect at the beginning of the year, but the state of Europe is less alarming than the condition of the United Kingdom. In glancing successively round points in the circle of public affairs, the political observer may excusably abstain as long as possible from directing his attention to domestic politics, and especially to the state of Ireland. In that unhappy country there is no diminution of crime or anarchy; and the popular demoralisation is faithfully represented by the impudent language of male and female demagogues, and by the circumstances of the most recent murders. There is no doubt that the Government is anxiously bent on discovering some means of restoring order and of protecting the property which

remains. Their culpability consists in their former slackness in repressing an organization which, with feeble credulity, they hoped to disarm by extravagant concessions. Some of the Ministers seem inclined to connive at the extension to England and Scotland of the practice of legislative spoliation. The precedent of the Irish Land Act has already deprived property of all kinds of the enjoyment. With fatal blindness, capitalists, who will assuredly be the next victims, have in some instances encouraged designs for the plunder of landowners. The wealthier members of the Farmers' Alliance fail to discern the inevitable result of their robbing of landlords in the demand of the rest of the agricultural population for the subdivision of farms. One of the most uncomfortable circumstances of the present state of political affairs is that no substitutes can be found, or even desired, for the actual holders of power. Even if there were a Conservative party as well disciplined as his followers, the Opposition could not prudently undertake the restoration of order in Ireland. The factious opposition from which the Government, notwithstanding the numerous losses of some of its members, has been almost wholly exempt, would be instantly organised against a Conservative Ministry. The difficulty will probably not arise in practice, because the majority returned at the general election is still unbroken. The more harmful consequence of the deeper the indignation of the orderly classes of the community, the more fulsome is the adulation which Liberal politicians bestow on Mr. Gladstone. It is true that his abilities and his industry become more marvellous as they prove themselves to be unimpaired by age; but the justice of some of his members, has been almost wholly exempt, would be instantly organised against a Conservative Ministry. 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# The Daily Telegraph

Head Office:—PARIS, No. 224, RUE DE RIVOLI.

Branch Office:—LONDON, 168, STRAND; NICE, 15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

No. 20,760.—FOUNDED 1814.

PARIS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES.

**TERMS:**—PARIS.—A single journal, 8 sous a week; 2fr. 50c.; a fortnight, 5fr.; one month, 10fr.; three months, 28fr.  
FRANCE.—A single journal, 9 sous; 1 month, 11fr.; 3 months, 32fr.; 6 months, 62fr.; a year, 120fr.  
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**NICE:**—15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

## Great Britain

LONDON, JANUARY 10-11, 1882.

### KING WILLIAM'S MANIFESTO.

The manifesto of Saturday is King William's personal act. As the King's Prime Minister, Prince Bismarck had to choose but to countersign it. Yet, for affixing his signature, he is liable to be impeached by the Prussian Parliament. If a Minister do not agree with a decision of the King as incorporated in an act of Government, or do not choose to accept responsibility for it before the nation, he is free to resign; that he may not countersign the Royal decree or join in enforcing an equivocal law. If a subordinate official so differ from the policy of the Government, which is the King's policy, that he feels compelled by his conscience to assent to it by his influence and vote, his duty equally is to retire from a post he cannot justly occupy. While he retains it he is bound, his King tells him, to co-operate with the Government, of which he implicitly forms a part, because he is bound to co-operate with the King, whose broad he eats. Prince Bismarck and his master's theory of the Royal prerogative does not differ essentially from the British. A British Sovereign, theoretically, is as unfettered in the exercise of his Royal powers as a Prussian Sovereign is asserted to be. If the Queen thought a Minister engaged in doubtful enterprises, or a legislative proposal immoral, it would be in theory, her duty to dismiss the Minister and veto the law. Her irresponsibility to the nation and the responsibility of her Ministers do not, in theory, circumscribe her from the personal obligation to consult her individual conscience, or them from responsibility also to her. In practice a clear distinction is acknowledged between the Monarch's opinions as a Monarch and personally. The King of Prussia, being theoretically free in the exercise of the prerogative left to him, arrogates the right to exercise his prerogative freely. Acts of Government, being in form his, he declares are his in fact. Incontrovertible evidence that they are, he informs his subjects, is to be seen in his signature appended to them. Practically, his interpretation of the Prussian Constitution, if carried out, lays a burden both upon him and upon his Ministers which neither will be able to bear. An autocrat has difficulty in reconciling himself to the modifications of policy enjoined by circumstances, rare and infrequent as they may be. No constitutional ruler's conscience or self-respect could stand the incessant strain of continual shifting of position required to preserve his Government and the nation in amicable relations. According to the present manifesto, should a Liberal Administration, as sooner or later it certainly will, succeed that led by Prince Bismarck, the Emperor William must be imagined to have turned Liberal, or to have had his individual will put in chains. Personal dignity exacts from the chief of a constitutional State that he should devise a *modus vivendi* for his double capacity of man and Sovereign. For statesmen in a country possessed of representative institutions it is an absolute condition of usefulness that both the Sovereign and themselves should interpret the responsibility they owe to the nation as signifying that their service is owed to the nation as well as to the Sovereign. The Emperor-King appears to hold that his Ministers are bound to take the whip from him, and are not bound to take counsel with his people. Prince Bismarck is tating at this moment the sweets of such a doctrine. The Stuart Kings of England entertained the same notion as the Emperor William of the absence of distinction between the Monarch's personal and official qualities. They acted not very dissimilarly in their attempt to treat their Ministers as exclusively their own servants, and not servants of the nation. When an inferior functionary opposed the King's Government, he was speedily taught that the King personally controlled the Government. If there is little fear that the present emancipation by the Emperor and his Chancellor of the worn-out Stuart hypothesis will be followed by its seventeenth century consequences, it is that neither are the Prussian and German Parliaments led by Fyves and Hampdens, nor is the House of Hohenzollern devoid of political instinct like the House of Stuart. Prince Bismarck may himself discover inconveniences in a theory of prerogative which, though elaborated for the direct behoof of the Prussian Crown, would apply equally to all the other varieties and shades of German Royalty. At some near date, when he or a successor has repented of the endeavour to keep up obsolete traditions of the German nation's incompetence to decide on the management of national business, the obstinate separatism of minor rulers may prove a worse obstruction to German unity than Parliamentary claims to be self-governed. The motive in any case for setting up such a pretension at the present moment seems singularly inadequate. The Chancellor and his august master have combined to fulminate an assertion of divine right against the Prussian people because the rank and file of German civilians are suspected of having swelled with their votes the gigantic majority against the Chancellor's experiments in Socialism and Protectionism. Prussian officials have generally been supposed to be more than despotically to their fellow-subjects. Prince Bismarck makes too

candid a confession of the irretrievable unpopularity of his recent policy when he offers, in Saturday's rescript, to the well-drilled Prussian bureaucracy the alternative of siding with the Government against the nation or being cashiered. He ought to perceive that it is time to come to terms with his countrymen, who cannot help admiring and revering him, when he finds himself reduced to terrorise his own clerks for their votes.—*Times*.

### MR. GLADSTONE'S LEGAL APPOINTMENT.

By elevating Sir John Holker, a staunch Conservative, to the vacant position of Lord Justice of Appeal, the Government has set an excellent precedent, which will probably be followed only in rare instances. The established rule in English political life is that Judgeships are part of the spoils and these are redistributed, as they fall in, to distinguished and capable lawyers belonging to the party in power; and our present Ministry has not hitherto deviated from this ancient custom with regard to judicial prizes. Now, however, that the lamented decease of Lord Justice Lush has placed another coveted legal post at his disposal, Mr. Gladstone has shown great good sense and much generosity in bestowing it upon one so well able in every way to add lustre to his high dignity as Sir John Holker, the present Conservative member for Preston. Some other names had been mentioned for the post, and as a matter of course the appointment was first of all offered to the law officers of the Crown for the time being. These are Sir Henry James, the Liberal Attorney-General, and Sir Farrer Herschell, Solicitor-General, neither of whom appears willing to exchange the freedom and excitement of Parliamentary conflict for the safe repose of the Judicial Bench. Since the present Ministry came into office, there has been a constant succession of deaths or resignations of distinguished Judges. A perfect plethora of legal appointments has consequently fallen into Mr. Gladstone's hands, and the Bench has been in a state of change, which, happening coincidently with the new arrangements necessitated by the amended Judicature Acts, has given a slightly kaleidoscopic character to our Courts of Justice. A solicitor or a barrister who had gone abroad three years ago, and who returned to London now, would hardly find one of our Courts either of Equity or Common Law in which extensive changes of judicial "personnel" had not taken place. Among those whom death has removed from us, we mentioned the late Lord Chief Justice of England, Sir Alexander Cockburn, whose office is now filled by Lord Coleridge; Lord Justice Thesiger, cut off in comparative youth; Chief Baron Kelly, and Lords Justices James and Lush. Many retirements have also occurred, such as those of Vice-Chancellor Malins, of Lord Justice Bramwell, and others. This having among the occupants of the Bench is something unprecedented, occurring as it did within a very short space of time; honoured names, noted individualities have gone down in the rush, and we are in presence of a new Bench, with a few survivors of old times. That the reputation of the collective "Judiciary" has not suffered must be acknowledged to be a solid tribute to the Judges selected, and also indicates the inexhaustible material for judicial appointments existing in our chief forensic champions, the men who go down to the law courts and draw truth up from its well every day of the sittings of the High Court. No doubt it requires peculiar qualities to make a good Appeal Court Judge. The tribunal is a somewhat anomalous one, inasmuch as it is only intermediate, and its decisions can be reviewed again by the House of Lords. At the time of the passing of the Judicature Acts it was intended that the Appeal Court should be the final tribunal for the whole realm; but custom, conquest, and the House of Lords retained its ancient privilege of being the highest Court of Justice, beyond which there lies no appeal, except to the Crown itself. It has been found in practice, however, that the Court of Appeal, despite its intermediate character, has a great deal of work to do, and performs a most useful function. For instance, litigants dissatisfied with the ruling of the Judge, or the finding of a jury, take their cases to this Court for review, but it hardly ever happens that they go beyond, and hammer at the ancient portals of the House of Lords. Great respect is naturally and properly felt for a tribunal which members among its members such intellects as those of Sir George Jessel, Lord Justices Brett, Cotton, and Baggallay, and occasionally a couple of present or past Lord Chancellors. It is to this dignified body that Sir John Holker is now transferred, without the preliminary step of a puisne Judgeship, and his appointment happily shows that political passions do not in this country run so deplorably high as to blind statesmen to the legitimate claims of able men among their political adversaries.—*Daily Telegraph*.

### THE AMENITIES OF COOMASSIE.

It appears that the dreadful report of a massacre of two hundred young girls at Coomassie was too true. They were collected by raiding amongst the tribes bordering on Ashanti, for the object of mixing their blood with the mortal used in building a new palace for the King. After one has surmounted one's natural horror, curious reflections arise:—Is there any part of the world, saving the Chinese Empire, where a kindred superstition has not made its victims? and the Chinese Empire is excepted rather because we know so little of its antiquity than because we can credit that an universal practice was not followed there. There are few buildings in Europe dating from the earlier Middle Ages which have not a legend of the sort attached to them; and a legend prevalent among all races and conditions, from the slave to the Anglo-Teuton, from the Kremlin to London Bridge, most certainly records a general instinct of humanity in its younger and darker stage. This class of legend is usually divided into two branches, of which each has examples innumerable. One is the legend of the "Anglo-Teuton," from the Kremlin to London Bridge, most certainly records a general instinct of humanity in its younger and darker stage. This class of legend is usually divided into two branches, of which each has examples innumerable. One is the legend of the "Anglo-Teuton," from the Kremlin to London Bridge, most certainly records a general instinct of humanity in its younger and darker stage. This class of legend is usually divided into two branches, of which each has examples innumerable. One is the legend of the "Anglo-Teuton," from the Kremlin to London Bridge, most certainly records a general instinct of humanity in its younger and darker stage. This class of legend is usually divided into two branches, of which each has examples innumerable. 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No. 20,761.—FOUNDED 1814.

PARIS, SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

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LONDON, JANUARY 11-12, 1882.

### THE PORTE AND ITS CREDITORS.

Mr. Bourke's financial mission to Constantinople excited, during the four months it lasted, an abnormal amount of interest, due partly to the vast number of creditors of the insolvent State, and partly to the notoriety of the debtor. Never before had such a default been witnessed, one involving so much loss and suffering to individuals and so swiftly followed by political results of momentous importance; for, if the repudiation of 1875 did not bring on the Eastern Question in the aggravated form it assumed, it added another ingredient to the elements of bitterness which left the Ottoman Empire with scarcely a friend in face of the enemies that clamoured for its dismemberment. The Turkish bondholders were dispersed all over Europe, and abounded in the great capitals, and the first feeling of respect for what they deemed to be a gratuitous robbery of their rightful dues was so keen as to blind them of the serious consequences to their own prospects likely to arise from the further impoverishment of their debtor. A wasteful war and territorial mutilation followed, seriously diminishing the bankrupt estate and transferring part of the property to preferential claimants, who, while they took much from the available assets, added a good deal to the already enormous debt. It was only after the work of dismemberment had been completed, and when it was seen that the Empire had obtained an interval of comparative security and rest, that the creditors bethought themselves of looking into the condition of what survived of the magnificent domain on which they held so many mortgages, and of obtaining some return for what was due to them. Then came Mr. Bourke's delegation to the task which he has just completed, and an explanatory narrative of which he has now issued. To the creditors, of course, the points of interest are three in number: the nature and value of the property on which they have claims, the possible composition to be had, and the security, if any, for the payment of even the smallest composition. What the estate now is Mr. Bourke tells them by the aid of figures which need no embellishment to become of historical value. Before the war the area of territory in European Turkey was 140,000 square miles; it is now 58,000 miles, 82,000 miles having been surrendered to Bulgaria, Roumelia, Austria, Servia, Rumania, Montenegro, and Greece, besides Cyprus and 5,700 square miles in Armenia. The population of the same territory has dwindled from about eleven millions in 1875 to six millions and a half in 1881; and the total revenues of the Empire, which in 1875 amounted to £17,250,000, are estimated at not more than £12,500,000 now; the sum permanently lost to the Empire being thus, in round numbers, \$4,750,000. Bearing in mind that the service of all the loans contracted by the Turkey that was—the Turkey of Sultans Abdul Medjid and Abdul Aziz—would, on the terms of the original contracts, require £13,000,000 sterling, it results that, if the whole revenue of the Ottoman Empire were devoted to that purpose and no other, it would fall short of the sum requisite by about £500,000 sterling. Clearly, therefore, the case was one for an equitable composition. There was, however, another reason why insistence upon the letter of the original bond was impossible, and that was that the revenues pledged had in several cases either ceased to exist or had been transferred with the territory and the population on which they were levied to other Powers. The debt goes with the territory surrendered as a condition of peace, and Turkey losing the one was, by the express stipulations of the Berlin Treaty, relieved also from the other. Thus Mr. Bourke, when he went to Constantinople, had not only to examine what he could obtain for the bondholders, but had to begin by reconstructing the debt itself. The capital amount had to be largely reduced first, owing to the ascertained inability of the insolvent State to pay, and, next, because a proportion had to be assumed by other States aggrieved at Turkey's expense. How and to what extent this was done the public has long since been informed; but we may repeat that, while the nominal amount of the original Ottoman debt, including six years' arrears of interest, was a little over £250,000,000, it has been cut down by agreement to £108,000,000; and the approximate estimate of the total to be assumed by the detached provinces brings out a further sum of £25,000,000. The latter, we must add, is matter of conjecture merely. Long negotiations, which are not yet even commenced, will be requisite before such States as Servia and Greece will pay a shilling more than whatever either force or the remonstrances of civilised Europe will compel them to pay; and with obvious prudence Mr. Bourke has not introduced these into his calculations, or trusted to such doubtful sources for any part of the composition he has procured for the bondholders. That was a matter of careful arrangement, requiring most delicate handling. Turkey, exhausted by the war, and living from hand to mouth on small temporary loans, borrowed at usurious rates of interest, had no free revenue to devote to payment of her funded debt. The local bankers, however, who had lent her several millions sterling to keep the State machine going to pieces, held certain securities of a value exceeding their claims. This excess was made over by the Porte to the bondholders, and it supplied Mr. Bourke with the nucleus around which to accumulate further assignments for the benefit of his clients. How effectively he laboured, by cutting down privileged claims in one direction and raising in additional sources of revenue for another, will be seen by the simple fact that a surplus arising from the pledged receipts averaging only £150,000 a year has under his hands expanded to one of £1,270,000—sufficient to pay 1 per cent. interest on the reduced total of the debt, and leaving something for a

sinking fund to clear off the principal by degrees. No more engagement by the Turkish Government, however, would reconcile bondholders to these terms. The Porte is not in high repute for punctuality and business habits or for good administration; and there would have been a fear that any surplus would be dissipated by carelessness or misapplication, or would sink and be lost to sight in the Serpentine bog of Stamboul corruption. Fortunately there is no such fear in the present instance. The Sultan, it is thought, encouraged if he did not invite Mr. Bourke's labours, because he dreaded the appointment of an International Commission at the mandate of the Great Powers. Whether that be so or not, he has only escaped a compulsory-imposed Financial Commission by accepting voluntarily one having less extended powers and not infringing directly his prerogative. Under the stress of hard necessity he and his Ministers had conceded to the local bankers the right to collect and administer certain items of revenue known as the indirect contributions—that is, the taxes on tobacco, salt, stamps, spirits, fish, and silk; and this privilege of collection and control has been by the arrangements completed through Mr. Bourke, transferred from the bankers, for a consideration, to a Council composed of bondholders' representatives. This Council is to have "the direct collection and custody" of the ceded revenues, and the local bankers, through their own officers, over whom it will have full control, and no part of the sums thus paid will pass through the hands of the local officials or be in any way subject to Government interference. It is inappropriate to suggest that these precautions may be of no avail, because, as a matter of fact, they have sufficed during the last two years when the indirect contributions were in the hands of the bankers to whom they were pledged; and a Council, elected by the various bondholders in each country, and composed of men of high character and independent position, cannot possibly be less secure of its privileges than half a dozen local capitalists, anxious as a rule not to quarrel with the Government by whose patronage they profit. Under the administration of these bankers, the pledged revenues have steadily increased in amount, and they may be expected to go on increasing. As guarantee, then, that the £1,270,000 he has obtained for his clients is the minimum on which they may rely with reasonable confidence, Mr. Bourke presents them with a power of control which can only be defective by their own neglect to utilise the authority handed to them.—*Daily Telegraph*.

### EFFECT OF THE ANGLO-FRENCH NOTE.

The Egyptian situation is clearer at one point, although as dark as ever at another. We are now able to judge pretty accurately of the effect which the Anglo-French Note is producing upon the other European Powers. There was never much doubt, of course, as to the feeling with which they would regard this bold assumption of exclusive control over Egypt on the part of England and France; but though there was only one way in which they were likely to regard it, there were two ways in which it was open to them to receive it. They might have lodged an immediate and formal protest against the pretensions of the Note, and have warned the Powers issuing it that, in the event of complications arising in Egypt, their claim to exclude all interference but their own would not be admitted by their neighbours. Or, on the other hand, they might content themselves with letting this resolve of theirs be unofficially known in some of the many ways in which such information can be conveyed, while officially taking no notice whatever of the Anglo-French composition. It now seems probable that they propose to adopt the latter course. Today's reports are all to the effect that the German Powers will totally ignore the Collective Note; while they contain an equally clear intimation on the part of those Powers that their silence must be understood to signify indifference, and not acquiescence. If the English and French Governments like to amuse themselves by what one Vienna newspaper calls a "decade of war against the windmills," well and good. There is no reason why Germany and Austria should make any observations on the pursuit of so harmless a pastime. For themselves, they repudiate—and, for aught we know, they may truthfully repudiate—any desire to disturb the *status quo* of which England and France have claimed to be the sole protectors; and since they see no danger of its disturbance from any other quarter, they do not think it necessary to notice a claim which may never have to be practically asserted. But at the same time it is to be perfectly understood by France and England that if any serious complications arise in Egypt, the German Powers will insist, any Anglo-French Note to the contrary notwithstanding, on taking part with their two western neighbours in the settlement of what will then have become an international question. So much as to the effect which the Joint Note is producing in Europe. As to its effect at Cairo, where results more marked and immediate might have been expected, we have had as yet but little information of a definite and satisfactory kind. We are told, indeed, this morning that the Note has "fallen like a thunder-clap" on the National party, and that it has "caused great excitement and even consternation amongst the military party and Notables;" but it does not appear on the facts that it has either excited these parties into a more submissive attitude, or that, so far at least, it has done much to strengthen the Khedive. On the contrary, Tewfik Pasha seems overcome with apprehension of the consequences which the interference of the two Powers may bring upon himself. He has forbidden the native newspapers to comment upon the Note, and he has apparently hastened to correct the report that its despatch was provoked by an appeal for assistance alleged to have been made by him to Sir E. Malet. "He has never held to the British Consul-General any language which could possibly be construed as indicating that he desired, or that there existed a shadow of necessity for, foreign interference of any sort." And while this is the hesitating mood of the Khedive, that of the Chamber—at any rate if we may judge by their attitude—appears to be the very opposite. They have not yet withdrawn what are called the "pretensions" which are being re-

sisted by the European Controllers; and cannot feel sure that, in spite of the implied menace of the Joint Note, they will not persist in them. Should they maintain their point, it will manifestly place the English Government in a rather awkward position. It may be quite true—and we ourselves are firmly persuaded of it—that the best thing for Egypt would be for the Chamber to withdraw their demands, and allow the Anglo-French régime to subsist untroubled; but any national control whatever for at least several years to come. But it is difficult to dispute the right of a regularly convoked and properly constituted assembly to insist on a voice in the administration of their country; and it is equally difficult to deny the scandal which would attend the action of a Liberal Government, with the antecedents of the present Ministry, who should undertake to stifle such a demand by the threat of military coercion.—*St. James's Gazette*.

### GUY'S HOSPITAL.

The report of an inquest held on Wednesday gives a sad exposure of certain defects in the management of a great and historic London hospital, which must startle and shock even those who are familiar with recent revelations of a somewhat similar character. The Coroner's jury in this particular instance have returned a verdict, accompanied, indeed, by some qualifying remarks, of accidental death. It is only necessary to analyse the facts of the case to see that this verdict in its present form is very far from satisfactory, although it may be hoped that the publicity which it gives to a bad system will lead to its being reformed without delay. The death of Mrs. Bartlett, undoubtedly took place, as the jury say, through "misadventure," but it was the misadventure of the sort which is known to the Scotch law as culpable homicide. She was admitted as a patient into Guy's Hospital on the 19th of December. Her illness was typhoid fever, and in the treatment of it the administration of quinine powders played a prominent part—their object being to lower her temperature. These powders were wrapped in white paper; there was a ticket attached to them specifying the nature of the contents and the dose to be given; their proper place was a bracket above Mrs. Bartlett's bed. On Saturday night the Clinical assistant went into the Miriam Ward in the hospital, where Jessie Bartlett was lying, to take her temperature. He found that she was almost in *articulo mortis*, and as a matter of fact she expired in about twenty minutes—that is to say shortly after midnight on the morning of Sunday last. This gentleman did not ask the nurse, Fanny Keyworth, any questions at the time when he saw Mrs. Bartlett dying. He contented himself by simply sending for the House Physician, Mr. Starling, who came and administered the usual remedies, unhappily to no purpose. Sister Victoria Elizabeth Jones, who had charge of the ward, subsequently came to Mr. Donby, the Clinical Assistant, and in his own words, "told him something which explained the cause of death." What that cause was he learned more precisely at the post-mortem examination. It was a dose of morphia, which had been given to the patient instead of the prescribed quinine. Mr. Starling's evidence was to the same effect. He had seen Mrs. Bartlett some forty minutes before Mr. Donby's summons reached him, and some twenty minutes after the fatal dose had been administered. There was, he said, "nothing peculiar about her." When he attended her later on he found that she was in a condition of collapse. He at first thought that perforation of the bowels had occurred, but he soon learned, as Mr. Donby learned, that morphia had been given in "mistake for quinine," and that the patient had, in point of fact, been poisoned. The number of Mrs. Bartlett's bed was 26; the number of the patient's bed for whom the morphia was intended was 23, and the nurse Keyworth had nothing whatever to do with the latter. Still she had contrived to give the morphia to Mrs. 23, to Mrs. Bartlett, and she did so because she took it out of a basket on the table into which the morphia powders had been put by the Ward Sister, and from which the nurse had three weeks before taken quinine powders. The question raised is—How did the drug intended for the patient in bed No. 23 come to be in this basket, and not, as is the rule, on the bracket above her bed? The only conceivable excuse for the Sister is that she had put the morphia powders in the baskets on the table in order that there should be no chance of their getting mixed up with less dangerous drugs on the bracket. But then the nurse Keyworth was adduced to show that the poisonous powder was specially marked with a warning card, it is not clear that the nurse saw the morphia label when she administered the drug. One thing is certain: had the ordinary rule of hospitals been observed, and each patient's drug kept strictly on the bracket above her bed, the morphia prescribed for the sufferer in No. 23 could not possibly have been given as quinine to Mrs. Bartlett in No. 26. The origin of this lamentable event, and the conditions under which it occurred, are thus sufficiently intelligible; they are not, however, on that account the less unpardonable. We have no desire to intensify the painful regrets which both Sister Jones and Nurse Keyworth must feel. They meant no wrong; but, as Hood has told us, Evil is wrought by want of thought as well as by want of heart. The nurse and her superior are both sufficiently punished by the melancholy incident with which their names are connected, and they are not likely to forget the lesson which it enforces. We blame, indeed, no individuals on account of this unhappy business; we blame rather the system, under which such misadventures are possible, and which it seems so difficult in Guy's Hospital to reform. On this head no censure can be too severe. It is clear that in the administration of Guy's Hospital there is still, in spite of recent efforts to improve matters, nothing like fixity or continuity.—*Standard*.

### THE COMING STRUGGLE.

The government of the country can no longer be carried on under the existing rules of the House of Commons. Such is the unanimous conviction of the Ministers responsible for the government of the country, and they are prepared to act on that conviction. When the session opens,

and as soon as the debate on the Address and the Bradlaugh difficulty are over, they will introduce proposals, comprehensive and drastic, for the reform of procedure, and these will be disposed of before any other business is taken in hand, even although the discussion should last till May Day. These proposals, embodying the leading features of the improvements in machinery suggested by Sir Erskine May, will also of necessity contain provisions for restoring in a direct and formal way the power to close debates which until the other day was invariably exercised in an informal fashion by the House of Commons. The only difference will be that, instead of debates being cut short by brute clamour, they will be terminated by a vote of the majority, either on the initiative of the Speaker or by forty members rising in their places, probably by the former. Should the House refuse to sanction reforms declared to be indispensable for the despatch of business by the responsible advisers of the Crown, it will be equivalent to a vote of want of confidence or a refusal to vote supplies. Ministers could not sit down tamely under such a defeat. They would be compelled either to resign or to appeal to the country. There is no mystery about these things. We are revealing no secrets. We are only stating an obvious fact. The decision of the Ministry to stake their existence upon the acceptance of their proposals for the reform of procedure is the best demonstration they can give that the changes they suggest are regarded by them as absolutely indispensable. Ministers represent all shades of opinion in the party which has most to lose from any arbitrary curtailment of the liberty or even the licence of debate. They have all been in a minority, and they all expect, sooner or later, to be in a minority again. Their traditions and their associations naturally lead them to regard with extreme suspicion any new limitation on the rights of minorities or the privileges of private members. Every consideration of private or party interest would lead them to evade or postpone the necessity for straining the allegiance of their followers by making so unpopular a proposal. Nevertheless they are driven to make, and, having made it, to stand or fall by, their proposal. The change is required not to secure the passage of any bill or of any set of resolutions, but to save parliament and government from perishing of paralysis. The *Liberal veto* slow free institutions in Poland; and, unless the despotism of a minority is suppressed by the authority of a majority, it will have not less fatal consequences in England. This is not a time, when the very existence of representative government is being rudely assailed on the Continent, to allow representative government in its original seat to be reduced to a byword and a reproach by the licence of disorderly locusts, even although it masquerades under the guise of freedom of discussion and the rights of minorities.—*Pail Mail Gazette*.

### THE WINE DUTIES.

A Scotch Chamber of Commerce has proposed that one of the subjects for consideration at the annual meetings of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, which are to be held in London at the end of next month, should be the expediency of memorialising Her Majesty's Government to take the earliest opportunity of negotiating a commercial treaty with the Government of Spain. The announcement made by a Gambettist journal in Paris that the negotiations for a commercial treaty between France and England are definitely broken off gives timeliness to this suggestion. It opens up the subject of the adjustment of the wine duties, and suggests the practicability of fixing a new scale of duties which will remedy the existing inequalities. At the present moment wines with less than 26 degrees of proof pay a duty of revenue of 10s. per gallon, but as respects wines of more than 26 degrees, the duty leaps with a single bound up to half-a-crown a gallon. The result has proved most injurious to the Spanish wine trade; and the Spaniards have on their side, retaliated by levying heavy duties upon English manufactured goods. The Chambers of Commerce are opportune in the moment they have chosen for calling attention to this subject. Mr. Gladstone, it is understood, is now considering the various questions which are likely to have a place in his Budget, and suggestions of a practical character from the representatives of the commercial public may perhaps be made more usefully during the next few weeks than at any other period of the year. It is little strange that although upwards of thirty different topics are to be submitted to the forthcoming meetings of the Association, the subject of the wine duties in relation to our colonies is not included in the list. Yet, as wine-growing countries like Australia and South Africa are as deeply interested in Spain as the readjustment of these duties, it is manifestly desirable that we should consider their point of view equally with that of the Spanish Government. They are already known to the world outside the country, and the duties on Spanish Cape wines are concerned, we are guilty of violating the principles of Free Trade, as well as of acting unfairly to the colonists. Mr. Gladstone, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, may be trusted to give a sympathetic hearing to those who, entertaining these views, desire to improve our commercial relations both with Spain and with the British colonies. It will be seen from a telegram from our Roman Correspondent that the Italian Government is not insensible to the opportunity of making favourable arrangements with respect to Italian wines which is offered by the breakdown of the treaty negotiations with France.—*Daily News*.

### THE MUSICAL WORKS OF THE PRINCE CONSORT.

It has long been known that the late Prince Consort added to his other acquisitions a scientific knowledge of music. Various pieces of his composition, for instance a Te Deum, and produced in very handsome style by Messrs. Metzler and Co. in a bound volume of two hundred and twenty pages. It was at first proposed to issue the book for private circulation only; but on it being represented to Her Majesty that it would demand a wider circulation, her consent was immediately granted to its publication in its present form. It appears at a time when the public are well aware of the musical taste of the Royal Family, and of the efforts that are being made under their auspices for the improvement of musical culture in England. This musical talent probably comes principally from the Saxe-Coburg side, although it should not be forgotten that the intellectual dulness of George III. was relieved by taste for, and skill in, music. The Prince Consort, like his brother, the Great Elector of Saxe-Coburg, was instructed in music at an age and at a period

when such studies would have been thought effeminate in this country. English people have always been unjust in this and some other particulars, and have before now been misled by taking slight account of a chamber or two of music, because he was not minutely acquainted with our highly elaborate manner of killing a fox. England has outgrown many of such prejudices, and it is now held by no means discreditable in a young man to play the organ or pianoforte, or even the violin. Other times bring other manners, but it is curious to note that the musical studies of the Prince Consort had no motive of proselytism. They were undertaken and pursued in a far more modest spirit. As he himself explained, he practised music as he did other things, not in a vain spirit of Christianism, but in order that he might be able to understand and appreciate the work of others. In music, as in painting and other arts, he desired the faculty of comprehension and the power of judgment, without aspiring to competition in any field with the acknowledged masters of art.

Notwithstanding this modesty of intention, there is no doubt that Prince Albert attained musical proficiency considerably above the amateur level. It is quite unnecessary, and would be entirely beside the mark, to speak of his musical compositions as Boileau did of Louis XIV.'s verses, as Voltaire did of those of the Great Frederick. They are unpretentious compositions done in a workmanlike manner. Simple and straightforward in deed as in speech, the Prince set before him in the great majority of the works before us a goal which a fairly accomplished musician should be able to attain. He attempted neither a symphony, nor an opera, and essays upon the complex harmonies which can only be successfully dealt with by a master hand. His object was apparently to write such melodies as would fall within the range of the ordinary voice and fair power of vocalisation. With the exception of a few concerted pieces, the numbers are such as might be written by a house-father accomplished in music for the performance and enjoyment of his own family—that is, songs eminently adapted to domestic intervals, and with very free accompaniment. Of this class is the pretty set of Reinecke's words entitled "Sontags Klänge," and the more plaintive "Dem Fernen." Another pleasing air is "Vergissmeinnicht," and somewhat more elaborate is "Orangerie," a sort of elaborate waltz. The Chorales are of the merit of their own, and a "Reiterlied" with chorus is distinctly characteristic and full of life and vigour. In length and aim the most important composition is a choral ode or Lullaby to Harmony. This is written in Italian words, and includes solos for soprano, tenor, and bass, with full chorus. The introductory chorus, *allegro maestoso*, "Armonia, Armonia," the *allegretto*, "Scendi a noi," and the *andante* for soprano, "Versus un dolce," have all the merit which belongs to the work of a practised hand, without perhaps the advantage of originality, but yet endowed with a certain solidity and honesty of execution. A similar remark will apply to the majority of the other works, for the voice and piano parts including one melody for the violin. There is thoroughness of purpose evident throughout, a desire to at least put out the strength that was in the writer, always intent on self-improvement with the object previously referred to.

There can be little doubt of the interest which such a work will excite in the musical world. What is especially noteworthy in it is a certain dramatic fitness which characterises music not otherwise remarkable except for the ease with which it can be sung and played. This dramatic fitness is distinctly felt in the anthem "Out of the Deep," which with the "Te Deum" forms part of a morning service; in the "Reiterlied," and in the chorales. This is the most surprising in the work, in that the Prince Consort's well-balanced mind was naturally rather judicial than dramatic; yet there is the true cavalry dash in the "Reiterlied," that rattle of the sabre and jingle of the spur without which cavalier duties sink to infantry level. Another striking feature is suggested by the number of compositions. The Prince was an extremely busy man; and it may be wondered how he found time to produce so much musical work. But the busiest of men can find time for the pursuits they prefer. The Prince Consort, generally wise and temperate in counsel, was not endowed with conspicuous oratorical or literary faculty; but it would seem that his artistic powers found fit expression in music. This is no uncommon case. It is rare that several forms of invention are found in the same individual. Many-sided men like Leonardo da Vinci and Michael Angelo are very few, and the calm judicial quality is seldom allied with creative powers of a high order. By the publication of the Prince Consort's musical compositions the public will be enabled to form a judgment of his artistic faculty.—*Daily News*.

### POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "MORNING POST.") We are authorised to state that no date has as yet been actually fixed for Prince Leopold's arrival in this country, but it certainly not take place till after Easter. Sir John Holker, Q.C., M.P., who has just been appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal in the place of the late Lord Justice Lush, will be sworn in before the Lord Chancellor on Friday next. It is expected that the new Judge will take his seat in the Court of Appeal at Lincoln's-inn on Monday next. General Sir Frederick Roberts will, it is understood, retain the command of the Madras army, and there is now no probability of his joining the Home Guards Staff. An open competition for clerkships of the higher class is about to be held. One of the vacancies offered will be a clerkship in the Colonial-office, with a commencing salary of £250 per annum. Particulars applications should be made to the secretary to the Civil Service Commissioners, Cannon-row, Westminster.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.") The Queen has been pleased to approve of the admission of Sir T. Erskine Perry as a member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council. Sir T. Erskine Perry has recently retired, after a long and distinguished public service, from the Indian Council. The subject of the telegraph will be submitted to the annual meetings of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, which are to be held in London at the end of next month. It will be proposed that a deputation be appointed to wait on the Postmaster-General, in order to impress upon him the desirability of the Government entering into negotiations with foreign countries for the purpose of cheapening and facilitating telegraphic communication. It will also be proposed to present him with a memorial urging the desirability of laying the telegraphic wires in the country underground. The captain's good service pension of £150 a year, vacant by the promotion to flag rank on the 31st of December last of Captain William H. Edye, has been awarded to Captain St. George Caulfield d'Arcy-Irvine.

### LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "TRUTH.") The health of the Duchess of Cambridge has been rather worse than usual lately, and in consequence of the intense nervousness of her Royal Highness, the drums of the Guards' band have not been played during the last winter, when the guard at St. James's Palace was being relieved. After being discontinued for several years from various causes, Lord and Lady Wilton have resumed their annual birthday ball at Egerton Lodge, which this year celebrated "the Earl's" 82d anniversary. The house party participated in the sports, and his lord-

ship opened the ball in a country dance. Everyone was pleased to see both the Duke of Rutland and Lord Wilton on horseback at the Granton Park meet of the Belvoir, last Wednesday. The Nestor of the Shires is now in excellent health, and intends to remain at Melton throughout the season.

A very successful fancy dress ball was given at Southsea, on Friday, but the spectacle would have been considerably more brilliant if *bond-fide* fancy dress had been a condition of admission, to the exclusion of uniforms, which, of course, largely predominated. Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar brought a party from Government House. The Princess was Anne of Austria, Lady Caroline Lennox came as a lady of the clan Gordon in *grande toilette*, and Lady Albert Seymour as La Mascotte. The Marine Artillery band officiated, and gave great satisfaction, but during the earlier part of the night the ballroom was too crowded for comfortable dancing.

Mr. Bernal Osborne would have been more successful in life had he been less witty. He had a considerable fund of common sense, was well read, and in Parliament he was an excellent debater. But his jokes were good, and were quoted, therefore the world would not believe that he could do anything else. Socially, he was a most agreeable companion; but he was not at his best when at a dinner-party where he knew that he was expected to shine, for he had a habit of making the most stupid or most retiring man at table his butt, and would say things rather disagreeable than witty to him, and this peculiarity was all the more remarkable as he was kind and good natured when not engaged in these professional fireworks. He died of a catarrh of the stomach, which he seemed to have rendered incurable by dosing himself with medicine and mineral waters.

The Duke of Argyll has received a present of wild turkeys from America, and he intends to try and breed them at Inverary. He hopes he will succeed, for they are splendid eating, incomparably superior to the average farm turkey; moreover, they afford good sport. The Duke of Cumberland tried to introduce them into Windsor Park; and in the reigns of George I. and II. there were great flocks in Richmond Park, but the breed unluckily became extinct.

A fresh country is to be opened up for hunting in Devon, Lady Rolle having consented to allow Lord Haldon's hounds to hunt on the Bickton estate, and on the district to the south-east of Exeter. No Fox-hunting is prepared to hunt this country two days a week if £500 a year be guaranteed for three years.

Lord Randolph Churchill has been hunting in Ireland with the Meath hounds, and the few Irish packs which have not been disturbed in their sport.

The Royal Princes mean well in advocating a Royal College of Music, but I hardly think that the country will be prepared to vote funds for this fact. A Conservatorium exist, we are told that "the genuine traditions of Handel, or even of Mendelssohn," would be maintained, and that "young singers with voices of splendid quality, but not under proper control," would no longer sing at public concerts. For no Majesty's purposes as these will the mass of the taxpayers consent to have their burthens increased. A Conservatorium of Music would simply mean a large and expensive home with a large and expensive staff, and it would be denounced by all musicians who were not of the staff. There are many objects, excellent even in their way, and amongst them may be reckoned maintaining the traditions of Handel, and teaching singers with good voices to have their under control, which are not of such general importance to the community as to justify their being supported out of the public purse. Artists are always of opinion that their own particular art is more important than all else in the world. They and their friends are for ever engaged in raids on the public exchequer, which it is the business of a Minister to resist.

### COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, WEDNESDAY. The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, to Osborne Cottage, where her Majesty awaited the arrival of the Empress Eugénie. The Empress, attended by Mme. de Aros, the Duc de Bassano, and Baron Corvisart, crossed from Portsmouth by the Royal yacht *Alberta*, Captain Thompson, Captain Bigge, Esquerry in Waiting, having attended the Empress from London. Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice, attended by the Hon. Lady Edith, Mrs. Norell, and Major-General Du Plat, received the Empress on her arrival at Trinity Pier, East Cowes. The Queen walked with the Empress this morning, and afterwards drove with the Dowager Marchioness of Ely. Princess Beatrice rode with Mrs. Norell.

The Prince of Wales left Bradgate Hall, the seat of Lord Stamford, on Wednesday morning for a day's shooting in the woods of Charnwood Forest. The party numbered 12 guns, carried by the same gentlemen as on the previous day. The morning shooting began near Groby Pool, where a large number of hares were bagged. Pleasant shooting also took place in Shaw Wood, after which lunch was served. The afternoon's sport was concluded at Lawn Barn. Here, over a hundred conveyances lined the road, and there was a large number of spectators to witness the conclusion of the day's sport. At dusk the Prince and party left Bradgate Hall, and, accompanied by the Countess of Stamford and several of the guests, walked to the royal carriage amidst the greatest enthusiasm and hearty cheering. The mayor of Leicester, Alderman Chambers, formed one of the dinner party at Bradgate Hall.

The visit of the Princess Louise to Liverpool to witness the departure of her husband for Canada created a good deal of stir in the crowds congregating on Wednesday at the railway station, the Town Hall, and the landing-stage. The Royal party, having reached the station, were driven to the Town Hall, where her Royal Highness inscribed her name in the book of autographs kept there. Opportunity was taken of this visit by the working opticians of Liverpool to send a deputation, consisting of Mr. T. G. Morris and Mr. J. J. Turner, to request the acceptance by the Marquis of a pair of eye-preservers as a protection against the glare of snow; and in accepting the gift his Excellency remarked that the long marches undertaken in Canada they would be extremely useful. The visitors were then entertained at luncheon by the Mayor, and in responding to the toast of "The Princess and the Marquis," his Excellency said that it was by his own particular wish and the urgent representations of her medical advisers that her Royal Highness consented to remain in England, in the hope that her health might be perfectly restored; but he trusted that she would be able to rejoin him in Canada early in spring. The party then proceeded to the landing-stage, and proceeded on board the steamer *Fairy Queen* to the Allan mail steamer *Parisian*, where her Royal Highness bade the Marquis an affectionate good-bye. The Princess returned to the palace by the five o'clock train. The following is a complete list of the party by whom his Excellency Governor-General is accompanied to Canada: Lady Frances Balfour, Mr. R. Balfour, Hon. W. Bagot, Colonel F. De Winton, Mrs. De Winton, Miss De Winton, Master De Winton, infant, Mrs. Mackenzie, and the servants in attendance upon his Excellency and suite.

The Duke of Cambridge returned to Gloucester House, Park-lane, on Tuesday night from attending the funeral of General the Lord. James Macdonald at Thorpe, near Bridlington.



**DISTRESS AMONG THE CLERGY.**—A meeting of clergy was held at Worcester on Thursday to consider measures for relieving the exceptional distress existing among many clergymen in the diocese owing to the loss of incomes derived from glebe land brought about by agricultural depression. The Bishop of Worcester, who presided, the Dean (Lord Alwyne Compton), and other speakers affirmed that there were many cases of urgent want where the income of clergymen depended upon profit from their glebes. After discussion it was resolved to raise a fund for the relief of clergymen suffering through agricultural depression, to be distributed by the Diocesan Clergymen's Widows' and



# The Illustrated London News

MORNING EDITION.

Head Office:—PARIS, No. 224, RUE DE RIVOLI.

Branch Offices:—LONDON, 168, STRAND; NICE, 15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

No. 20,763.—FOUNDED 1814.

PARIS, MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

TERMS:—PARIS.—A single journal, 8 sous; a week, 2fr. 50c.; a fortnight, 5fr.; one month, 10fr.; 3 months, 28fr.; 6 months, 52fr.; a year, 100fr.

FRANCE.—A single journal, 8 sous; a week, 2fr. 50c.; a fortnight, 5fr.; one month, 10fr.; 3 months, 28fr.; 6 months, 52fr.; a year, 100fr.

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INDIA, CHINA, THE COLONIES.—A single journal, 8 sous; a week, 2fr. 50c.; a fortnight, 5fr.; one month, 10fr.; 3 months, 28fr.; 6 months, 52fr.; a year, 100fr.

Terms of Advertisements:—75, 60, or 50 centimes a line, according to the number of insertions. None under three francs.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES, 2fr. a line. NOTICES, 3fr. a line.

SUBSCRIPTIONS can be transmitted direct by a cheque on London or Paris, or by a Postal Order, to be procured at all the bureaux de poste in Europe and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; also through the Messageries, Bankers, and Bookellers.

LONDON.—Advertisements and Subscriptions received at the Special Office of "The Illustrated London News," 168, Strand; also by G. STREET, 30, Cornhill; BATES, HENRY and CO., 4, Old Jewry; SMITH and SON, 186, Strand; E. C. COVEY and CO., St. Andrew's; General Post-office; F. L. MAY and CO., 160, Piccadilly; DELLEY, DAVIES and CO., 1, Finch-lane.

NICE.—15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 14—15, 1882.

THE SITUATION IN GERMANY.

The Rescript of the German Emperor, issued in his quality of King of Prussia, appears to have caused great alarm and consternation in Germany. It is regarded by all outside Court circles, and possibly some within them, as laying down dangerous doctrines for the present, and threatening worse things for the future. Its two main propositions are that the acts of the Government are not the acts of the Minister who countersigns them, but of the Sovereign who orders them; and that officials at election time are bound, under pain of dismissal, to support, or at least not to actively oppose, the policy which the Sovereign recommends to the country. The German Parliament has begun by asserting its independence in a curious way. It has passed, by a very large majority, the second reading of a Bill respecting the Act whereby ecclesiastics are bound to make submission to the State before entering on their offices. The Falk Laws are purely Prussian enactments; but this was an Imperial Act, and the Imperial Parliament can therefore repeal it with the assent of the Federal Council. The majority was made up not only of the Clericals, the Poles, and others, who would be sure to vote for any measure giving greater latitude and security to ecclesiastics, but also of a large contingent of advanced Liberals, who were opposed on principle to restrictions on religious opinion, and a small contingent of Socialist democrats, who were opposed on principle to any restriction on anything. Old-fashioned Liberals vote against the measure on the usual ground that freedom must not be conceded to the enemies of freedom. There was a reasonable ground for the difference of conscientious opinion in the ranks of the Liberal Party, and the respective sections voted as they thought right. This was immediately seized upon by the critics devoted to Prince Bismarck, as a fresh proof of the Liberal Party. It may, on the other hand, be taken much more reasonably as a proof that the German people are seriously interested in its own affairs, and that honourable men are prepared to vote in accordance with the opinions by advocating which they secured their election. What will be the fate of the Bill remains to be seen; but there can be no doubt that the action of the Parliament constitutes a new and very important step in the constitutional struggle which is now agitating Germany.—*Saturday Review*.

The *Spectator* is of opinion that "Royal Rescript" published in Berlin on Thursday evening does not involve a revolution, but in advising its issue Prince Bismarck has entered on that broad road which leads direct to *compétence d'état*. The immense effort is made to show that the Rescript contains no new doctrine, and only reasserts the central truth of the Prussian Constitution; and there is a sense in which this theory is partially, though only partially, correct. There is no doubt that the Constitution in Prussia was intended to be monarchical, in a sense in which the English Constitution, at all events in modern times, has not been monarchical; that it left an immense place for the King; that he was intended to remain head of the Executive; and that, in particular, he was allowed full power to select, appoint, and replace his own Ministers. But it is no less true that the King was expected to act on the advice of such Ministers as he and Parliament could both accept, and that the policy of the King, though no doubt immensely influenced by the King's will, was in theory to be theirs, and not his only. For the Constitution, as the Rescript admits, made the King irresponsible, made Ministers responsible, and rendered the signature of a Minister indispensable to every act. To make Ministers responsible for decrees which they could in no way control, is an injustice which not even the framers of Continental Constitutions could have intended to commit; and consequently, for 31 years the King, though, no doubt, most powerful, has been sheltered by his servants from Parliamentary or popular attack. In declaring, therefore, that "the right of the King to conduct the Government and policy of Prussia, according to his own discretion," is limited, but not abolished, by the Constitution, and that the necessity for a Minister's signature and the responsibility of Ministers do not impair the directness of the King's action, the author of the Rescript gives a new and, *pro tanto*, an absolutist interpretation to the Constitution.

M. GAMBETTA AND THE FRENCH CONSTITUTION.

The *Saturday Review* is uncertain whether M. Gambetta prefers two Chambers to one; but he has shown on more than one occasion that he correctly appreciates the special connection which exists between the communes and the Senate. The real reason, apparently, that moves him to destroy the Constitution in this particular has nothing to do with the manner in which the popular Chamber is elected. M. Gambetta has made up his mind that the King will not govern France unless the Chamber of Deputies is elected by departments, instead of by arrondissements; and he sees in the revision of the Constitution the only means of getting what he wants. Why there should be no other means than this is less obvious. There seems no reason why M. Gambetta should not introduce a Bill to establish the *scrutin de liste* without subjecting the Constitution to revision, in order to accomplish what might equally be accomplished without such revision. The explanation may possibly be that, as it is not proposed to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, there is no reason for introducing a bill to change the distribution of the constituencies so long before a general election. But as revision was the cry with which M. Gambetta went to the country last autumn, there is a technical consistency in giving immediate effect to it, even though the ostensible reason for doing so has disappeared. Revision is to be resorted to in reference to the mode of electing the Senate, nominally, because it was part of M. Gambetta's programme under a quite different state of things, but really because M. Gambetta wants to make the Constitution define for the first time the mode of electing the Chamber of Deputies.

The *Spectator* considers that M. Gambetta having told the country that he could not vote fairly without the *scrutin de liste*, and as the country, willing or unwilling, accepted his terms, he is in the right in insisting on them. That he will carry his revision cannot be doubted. France did not insist on *scrutin de liste*, but it voted permission for it as clearly as ever the United Kingdom voted permission for an Irish Land Act. It may be angry, under the apprehension that dissolution will follow revision; but the effect of that anger will be to induce it to vote so carefully "straight" that the excuse for dissolution will never come. That this is personal government, rather than real Parliamentary government, may be true, and the *Spectator* dreads *scrutin de liste* for that very reason; but still it is personal government terminable in a moment at the will of the electors.

ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND EGYPT.

The *Economist*, after mentioning the respective objects of England and France in Egypt, declares that if the joint protectorate should once take the form of a joint protectorate it is difficult to see how combined military action can lead in the long run to any other result—the irreconcilable divergence between the aims and interests of the two Powers will soon declare itself, and the worst consequences may be apprehended. The truth is that England and France are in Egypt in a radically false position, and yet they can neither retreat nor go forwards, except at the risk of precipitating a catastrophe. Of all expedients that could be devised for securing and retaining influence in a foreign country, the expedient of an indirect financial control is probably the best, and, had Egypt been in any case, its evils are more than doubled when its exercise is vested jointly in Powers whose objects and methods differ so widely as those of England and France. Yet now that the control is once established, to abandon it hastily would be to deliver over Egypt to a march or a state worse to Turkey than the present one. The situation, full of peril and embarrassment as it is, is one which we have created for ourselves, and we have only resources to thank if we do not immediately escape from it. Our best hope for the future would seem to lie in gaining the friendship of the better elements in the Nationalist party, which may in time provide the nucleus of a healthy and independent Government.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF LONDON.

The *Spectator* believes there is something in the understood resolve of the Cabinet to reform the Government of London this year which appeals strongly to the imagination. It is such a gallant attempt to do good, without promise or hope of pay! No great class particularly wants the metropolis to be vivified, and a great many strong interests have reason to dread any innovation.

The plan proposed, so far as it has oozed out, will, to the alarm of men, being substantially an extension of the City, with a better suffrage, but with two houses, a Court of Aldermen and a Court of Deputies, over the whole metropolitan area, but the City Ring will have an ultimate loss of power. Hitherto, even Government has shrunk from touching them, and the federated municipalities which look up to them as defenders of self-interest. The vestries, with their ratepayers and dependants, will be all alarmed, indignant or doubtful; while Conservatives of all kinds will apprehend by instinct that the waking of popular light in the huge city may be fatal to the ascendancy they always claim, but did not even Lord Beaconsfield, as Mayor of London, ever intend to shake.

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quarter of a century. Comparing the evidence given on the trials of Palmer and Dove with that which we have lately read, we seem to have passed from a region of conjecture to one of almost positive demonstration. It is alarming to know that one-sixteenth part of a grain of arsenic is sufficient to kill a man, it is reassuring to learn on the same authority that the two-hundredths part of a grain of that subtle poison can be infallibly detected after it has wrought its deadly course through the system. The coroner's jury appended to their verdict an expression of sympathy with Mr. Bedbrook, the principal of the school where Mr. John died. Such is the perversity of human nature that Mr. Bedbrook is certain to suffer in public opinion from the occurrence of this tragedy at his house. It is right, therefore, to point out that there is not the smallest ground for imputing fault to him. No possible care on his part could have protected his unfortunate pupil, and he deserves and will have the sympathy of all right-thinking people.—*Globe*.

COMPENSATION FOR WRONGFUL CONVICTION.

Referring to the extraordinary confession of the man Brooks, declaring the innocence of two men who have already served a long term of penal servitude for an attack upon him, which is now given never to have been made, the *Daily Telegraph* remarks that the question of practical interest now is whether anything can be done to compensate these unfortunate men for all their hardships.

To indemnify them fully would be impossible. But the stigma attaching to them is wiped off already, and there remains an act of generosity which ought certainly to be performed without loss of time. Pecuniary compensation, if awarded, and every effort made to start the victims again in at least as good a position as they occupied before. For, if justice sometimes errs, when the error is discovered it is only common fairness that the injury inflicted should be repaired in some degree. Accidents, if they will, happen in the best administration of the law, as the cases of Galley and Habron notoriously exemplify, though there is no reason to complain of the number of mistakes made by criminal law courts. The law is a great machine, and the daily *Telegraph* remarks that the law, as it is, and then some part of the mechanism is apt to go wrong. This is the percentage of failure which always accompanies any vast and ordinarily satisfactory system; but the very rarity of wrong convictions is a forceful argument in favour of compensating the victims of them when they do occur. The expense per annum would be comparatively small, and in the case of Johnson and Clowes the State is spared the cost of keeping the men in prison for eight years. It can, therefore, be said that the law, as it is, is a good thing, and that a terrible punishment must have been to these poor men to find themselves arraigned for a crime never committed, condemned by a jury of their countrymen, and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude, without the least fault being on their side.

The matter must move compensation. Merely to tell them that they are free men, and can go about their business, is not enough. It would be unworthy of a hearty and generous people. Sir William Harcourt will understand that the precedent of substantial indemnification, as in the case of the two men, is the reason that mistaken convictions are of exceedingly rare occurrence. Even if the State were called upon to pay to the extent of £10,000 a year in compensation to convicted innocents, the loss would not be greater than the Exchequer might be able to bear.

DRAWBACKS TO ALPINE SUNSHINE.

Mr. John Addington Symonds sends the following from Davos to the *Pall Mall Gazette*:

Four years' experience has not shaken my belief in the value of a high mountain climate for certain classes of pulmonary invalids; though I am bound to say that the hopes I entertained and publicly expressed after a few months' residence in Davos have been considerably dashed by what I may call the "drawbacks" to the Alpine cure. At the same time this long experience convinces me that the principles upon which an Alpine cure can be expected have been steadily neglected here. When I first knew the place it was a little village, furnished with a few hotels for the reception of strangers. The houses were simple, the air quite pure, the houses far apart and of moderate dimensions. Since then it has rapidly expanded, and the expansion has brought the following bad consequences—

1. There is now a perceptible cloud of smoke always hanging over the valley, shifting with the wind, but never escaping, and thickening the air to a considerable extent. This smoke arises mainly, doubtless, from chimneys; but it reminds one of the breath of many hundreds of consumptive patients aggregated at close quarters. 2. The houses, which have sprung up like mushrooms, are built with little attention to the requirements of a sanatorium. The main promenade is more than half in shadow. 3. The drainage of the place is infamous. One portion of the village carries its sewage down into a marsh, whence it stagnates, and another portion is drained into the stream, which in winter is a shallow, open, ice-clogged ditch, exhaling a frozen vapour. To walk by the course of this river is now not only disagreeable but dangerous. The largest houses frequented by the English have a horrible effluvia arising from the cesspool beneath its windows. In the largest hotel frequented by the Germans a species of low fever has recently declared itself. 4. The social amusements of a watering-place have been greatly multiplied, and the amusements, as they are called, are multiplied. Some entertainments of the sort are no doubt not only necessary, but also beneficial. Yet it must be remembered that the peculiar severity of Alpine winter, the peculiar conditions under which the English are permitted to borrow the word from the French, writers of political leading articles in the newspapers, to use an obvious English equivalent for the French word "clôture."

The odious word *clôture*—I call it odious, since we have the odious English equivalent ready to our hand—is still in the *St. James's Gazette* of Jan. 9, some half a dozen times. There is a leading article entitled "The Clôture" in the *World* of this week. I have seen it quoted in the *Standard* and many other papers; and between the two openings of Parliament the political leader-writers all over the country, will be "talking the leg off an iron pin," so to speak, about "a clôture," and *McClung*, that fervid anti-ministerialist, will be vehemently declaring, at the annual dinner of the West Gloucestershire Constitutional Club, that "we don't want no Clôture in this country."

"It is always considered," wrote Sydney Smith, "as a piece of impertinence in England, if a man with less than two or three thousand a year has any opinions at all on important subjects." There it is. If I had three thousand a year; if I were Professor Moffat, D.D., or Mr. Nimblepence, M.P., or even Mr. Lord Tommody, I might persuade people to listen to me on the matter of "closure" or "clôture." As it is, I am nobody, and I am not, indeed, I am not esteemed myself fortunate if I escape being branded as "sensational" in protesting against the attempted foisting on our language by the political leader-monger of the clumsily new-fangled word "clôture." The Italian has adopted the system; but they disdain to borrow the word from the French.

Words, idle words. We have to thank the Charity Organisation Society for the invention of a brand new compound English word. What do you say to a "non-provident-bodied case"? I read of such a case in the report of a recent meeting of the beneficent institution in question. After this, what becomes of the briar-wood-pipe-smoking, bull-terrier-keeping, knife-board-omnibus-patronising, music-hall-ditty-humming, Gladly-restrained young man; or the American "shinning-round-the-foot-watches, kill-killick-chewing, cocktail-imbibing, draught-poker-playing, non-law-abiding, scallawag-hoodlum cuss"? The non-provident-bodied case is, I gather from the Charity Organisation report, a labouring man able to work, but who has got to work to do. He has been "non-provident"—that is to say, he has neglected to become a Forester, an Odd Fellow, a Druid, or an Ancient Briton; to invest in Consols, or make deposits in the Post-Office Savings Bank. Away with the non-provident-bodied case! to the workhouse. There let him crack stones and pick oakum.

A charming Christmas gift comes to me from Leipzig, in the form of a handsomely bound little tome, being the two-thousandth volume of the world-famed Tauchnitz Collection of British Authors. What a cheerful, kindly benefactor to English tourists abroad has been the Baron Bernhard Christian von Tauchnitz. Since '41, I think, has the Tauchnitz series been in course of publication. At that time there was no international copyright; but Herr Tauchnitz resolved to pay the sanction of the authors, and pay them for permission to include their productions in his series. Nobly has the House of Tauchnitz abided by its upright resolve. Most of the people of the pen have tasted the Tauchnitz book, in the shape of a kindly benefactor to English tourists abroad has been the Baron Bernhard Christian von Tauchnitz. Since '41, I think, has the Tauchnitz series been in course of publication. 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# The Morning Edition.

Head Office: PARIS, No. 224, RUE DE RIVOLI.

Branch Offices: LONDON, 168, STRAND; NICE, 15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

No. 20,766.—FOUNDED 1814.

PARIS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMS

**TERMS:** PARIS—A single journal, 8 sous; a week, 3fr. 50c.; a fortnight, 5fr.; one month, 10fr.; three months, 28fr.  
FRANCE—A single journal, 9 sous; 1 month, 11fr.; 3 months, 32fr.; 6 months, 62fr.; 1 year, 120fr.  
EUROPE, UNITED STATES, COLONIES—A single journal, 9 sous; 25fr.; 6fr.; 125fr.  
INDIA, CHINA, THE COLONIES—21 fr. 00.  
23 so. 00.  
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**NICE:**—15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

## Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 17-18, 1882.

### THE COMING SESSION.

The Prime Minister is to return to town on the 24th inst., and the Cabinet will meet on the following day, which will leave nearly a fortnight available for the discussion of forthcoming measures before the opening of Parliament on the 7th of February. Mr. Gladstone, it is well known, is as eager for the fray, as fresh and vigorous, as abounding in spirit and confidence as if he were a score of years younger. Yet the coming session will witness the completion by him of half a century's Parliamentary service. If he ever entertained the thought of retiring from public life, or even of lightening his labours by removing to the Upper House, a statesman of his peculiar temperament would discover sufficient reasons for changing his mind in the difficulties now confronting his Administration. The state of Ireland is still disquieting, and the influence of Irish politics on the conduct of Parliamentary business is full of grave cause for apprehension. It is true that if the Irish party carry into effect their menace of obstruction during the debate on the Address, there will be some compensation, from a Ministerial point of view, for the inevitable embarrassment and scandal. A renewal of obstructive tactics would furnish the Government with a cogent practical argument for amending the procedure of the House of Commons. No such incidental advantage—for either party, or for the country—can be extracted from the revival of the weary and painful controversy over Mr. Bradlaugh's claim to be admitted to take the oath as member for Northampton. If the Opposition are wise, they will not waste their powers and damage their credit by prolonging their resistance, which, should party passions be lashed into excitement, may be overcome by the united vote of the Liberal majority. The "previous question" may be used to defeat Sir Stafford Northcote's proposal to exclude Mr. Bradlaugh, but many members on both sides have begun to see that it would be more orderly and passing a short bill to settle the matter in the classes of cases to be considered, an affirmation on an oath. The Conservatives, in waiving their right to oppose such a measure, would show, in our opinion, both practical judgment and public spirit, though they may not easily induce their younger and more fiery combatants to retreat. A far more momentous issue will be raised by the introduction of the Ministerial scheme for the reform of the rules of the House of Commons. It is above all things to be desired that neither party may approach this question in a heated and exasperated temper. The Ministry are bound to give, and, no doubt, will give to the subject in all its bearings the fullest and the calmest consideration. It must not be supposed that they have resolved to stifle dissent and instantly, of certain unalterable proposals. The Irish Land Bill, as we know, went through more than twenty revisions during its discussion in the Cabinet, and probably some of its clauses were amended at the very last moment. The procedure of Parliament is a subject on which the Government of the day must consult with, and to a large extent, must defer to, public opinion, and especially to that of the House of Commons. The embarrassments with which the Ministry have to deal are frankly recognized by the country, and the arguments in favour of changes, which will not only put down deliberate obstruction, but will expedite the transaction of ordinary business, are generally admitted to be strong. But there is a party alone, not confined to one party alone, to surrender the securities for free debate without considering whether the change may lead. Some politicians talk glibly of the necessity for "drastic measures," and the *clature* by a bare majority has been assumed, without sufficient grounds, to be the instrument the Government will call upon the House of Commons to instruct them with. Many other amendments in the existing procedure of the House have been suggested and some will be certainly proposed. It is likely that with regard to these an agreement may easily be reached, after an interchange of ideas, by the majority of reasonable men on both sides. But with respect to the *clature* by a bare majority the case is altogether different. The whole mass of the Opposition will not even consent to look at it as an open question. No reason will be given, as they assert, to concede a remedy which, as they assert, is worse than the disease. Moreover, they will not be without supporters, or, at any rate, sympathisers, on the Liberal benches. Some Radical politicians are known to be as reticent as the Conservatives themselves to give up to the Government of the day the power of peremptorily putting an end to debate on any subject whatever. Many other Liberals who see in "government by discussion" the best safeguard of freedom are equally hostile to an innovation that would alter most seriously the character of Parliament and the course of English legislation. We are unable to perceive that the proposed introduction of the *clature* pure and simple has

been received with pleasure by the country, and, when it is considered on its merits, we are inclined, after giving all due weight to the arguments urged in its favour, to come to the conclusion that the reasons on the other side turn the scale. The finality of legislative reforms in England, which depends upon the acquiescence of defeated minorities in what has been accomplished, would be destroyed if it could be alleged that discussion had been stifled by the votes of impatient majorities. The discontent of the Opposition might be supposed to be of great occasions, but it would find opportunities of asserting and avenging itself which would not conduce to the rapid despatch of business. It is obvious that few of the objections to *clature* by a bare majority apply to a measure by which the assent of the main body of both parties would be required for the compulsory closing of debate. A majority of two-thirds or three-fourths might be relied upon to join in putting an end to idle and wasteful talk, while it would prevent any allegation that fair discussion had been burked in the interest of a Ministry. The Prime Minister is not likely to ignore the effect of any changes proposed upon the character of the House of Commons. But there are reasons also of practical expediency which, from a party point of view, recommend caution in putting forward projects unfamiliar to the English people. There is no proof that the nation has withdrawn its confidence from Mr. Gladstone, in spite of defeats at elections and municipal gains for Conservatism. There are, however, signs of uneasiness in the political world, which may foreshadow the removal of old party landmarks. There are clouds, too, upon the horizon of foreign affairs. The situation in Egypt is an anxious one. The protracted agony in Ireland and the difficulties in the administration of the Land Act afford matter for scornful or denunciatory criticism. It would be unwise to add to all these dangers the bitterness that would be engendered among Liberals as well as Conservatives if the Ministerial majority, morally weakened by significant defections, were to impose the *clature* in its crudest form upon the House of Commons.

—Times.

### THE COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* wrote on Tuesday:—  
The Cabinet discussed to-day at great length the Anglo-French Treaty of Commerce. The negotiations, as is known, are being carried on just now at Paris alone between Lord Lyons, M. Gambetta, and the Minister of Commerce. It was thought the matter could thus be expedited by avoiding the delays necessarily resulting from carrying on the negotiations from a distance. Lord Lyons knows perfectly well what are the extreme concessions he can agree to, and on their side the members of the French Cabinet conducting the negotiations know that the British Ambassador, coupled with his desire to hasten the important question to a satisfactory conclusion, possesses all the necessary elements for doing so, down to the signing of the Treaty. As to the latter point, I think it may now safely be said that a treaty will be signed. The ill-considered prophecies which, since the 1st inst., not only have been repeated, but have represented the hopes of concluding a treaty as chimerical, fortunately thus fall to the ground. I say again, what you have said before—viz., that as soon as it appeared to the statesmen of the two countries that a treaty was possible for both nations a momentary political necessity, before which considerations of an inferior order ought on both sides to give way, the treaty could be regarded, difficulties of detail notwithstanding, as certain of being concluded after a more or less prolonged interval, but an interval which could not be prolonged for ever. This is not the place to discuss which country the conclusion of a treaty most benefits. What is certain is that, despite all pretences, the treaty is essential to both nations, because the two nations are essentially at odds, and because there is an enormous difference between the relations of two nations making an amicable exchange of their products and the relations of two nations combating each other on the field of industry by every means at their disposal and seeking rather to injure each other than to benefit themselves. Governments must place themselves above narrow passions when international relations are in question. It is, therefore, to be supposed that the members of the two Governments have obeyed this duty, that they have put aside the selfish considerations of those that think only of their personal advantage, and that in the diplomatic negotiations relative to the treaty they are looking only to the absolute necessity of the good and cordial relations which may be established between the two nations, economic conflicts being avoided.

Both sides seem just now disposed to make concessions. The difficulties of details still existing in the question of cottons, woollens, and leather are every day diminishing through compromise and the adoption of new theories; and it is hoped, as I said on Saturday, that it will not be necessary to have recourse to a fresh promulgation, however short, of the present Treaty. All that is possible will certainly be done to avoid it, for in the advanced state of the negotiations the demand for a fresh adjustment of the details of the treaty is now pressing more and more upon the Government. It is not, however, as if it is but fair to state, has promptly perceived this necessity; and, that, having perceived it, he has exerted the weight peculiar to him in impressing it on his colleagues, who are now as convinced as himself. Within the French Cabinet accordingly the accord is complete, and the difficulties of detail which arise are being considered by it, not with the covert design of magnifying them and obstructing the conclusion of a treaty, but with a firm and unanimous intention of smoothing them down. In view of the unanimous resolution, the Ministers entrusted with the negotiations are naturally acting with more confidence and energy, while the English representative on his side is advancing with greater confidence of success. The result may now, therefore, be tranquilly looked forward to. There have been anxiously watched by all those who regard friendly relations between the two countries as essential to the welfare of both, will end amicably, and whatever unforeseen incident may yet give rise to a happy issue may be confidently awaited.

### ARREST OF THE BEY'S BROTHER.

Telegraphing on Tuesday night, the *Standard* correspondent at Tunis says:—  
Last night the Tunisian Minister of War, with two hundred native Cavalry, proceeded to the Palace of Sidi Taieb, the youngest brother of the reigning Bey. This morning he was made prisoner, and he is now being conveyed to the Bardo. The circumstances which have led to this arrest are curious enough. When the French soldiers were engaged with the Kroumirs in April, M. Roustan was making all the necessary arrangements to place him on the throne. The Treaty, fearing that, at the latest moment, the reigning Bey would take refuge on board some foreign warship, and thus frustrate the pre-arranged plan. M. Roustan made overtures to Taieb Bey, giving him all the necessary assurances that he would be placed on the throne, provided he would sign the Protectorate Treaty. As in the end the reigning Bey signed the Treaty, and Taieb's services were no longer required, M. Roustan abandoned him, and a good deal of ill-feeling has since existed between his brother and himself. He is vain against M. Roustan for protection against his own family. Taieb Bey then openly declared that a well-known lady who has played an important part in the Tunisian question, offered to secure the throne for him. He had taken place between him and M. Roustan, but without any result; and he complained that, after being made a tool to bring about the signature of the Treaty, he has since been completely abandoned and treated as an intriguer.

LATER.  
It has transpired that M. Roustan lately pressed the Bey on several occasions to arrest his brother Sidi Taieb, but the Bey declined to assume the responsibility. Yesterday M. Roustan informed the Bey that the French Government authorised him to arrest Sidi Taieb, and that he had been arrested for intriguing against his brother, but the real cause is now of public notoriety. Taieb Bey, who has a French passport, has caused a telegram to be sent to Paris, praying the French Government to allow him to proceed to France, and that he would be able to do so, if the French Government would be required. The affair is causing much excitement here.

### THE REVOLT IN HERZEGOVINA.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Tuesday night:—  
The first reports which have arrived from the scene of the insurrection consist principally of accounts of small skirmishes and attacks on gendarmes, on the 1st inst., the rebels suddenly broke out in earnest, and the rebels have made several night attacks on villages. For some time to come the reports from the disturbed districts may be expected to be of a similar character. In this guerilla warfare, as in 1878, the insurgents suddenly appear, and then disappear, and as suddenly disappear, no one knows whither. According to the latest news there are signs of insurrection only in South-Western Herzegovina. The territory affected extends from Trebinje to Nevesinje, and reaches, suddenly, to the coast. The district forms a triangle, closely following the Montenegrin frontier. The Austrian authorities there, however, still remain undisturbed, none of the telegraphs or other communications being interrupted, showing that the insurrection has not yet taken root in itself in the light of day. The fear that the revolt will soon assume dangerous proportions would be much diminished if it were possible better to guard the Montenegrin frontier, and if there were no signs of a Pan-Slavic agitation in the Balkan Peninsula, and if the rebels were not only in the arrested Pero Matanovic, but also on the other insurgents who have been shot or captured, prove that Pan-Slavic agitators are mixed up with the insurgents. The papers are said to point to the dismissed Serbian Metropolitan Michael, who is now in the hands of the rebels, as one of the leaders of the Pan-Slavic insurrection after the occupation of Bosnia by the Austrians. Some weeks back I received news from Russia stating that from Odessa to St. Petersburg competent persons, military officers and civil servants, were being sent to the frontier, and that the Austrians could not long be avoided. It is quite possible that such an impression, in its origin, connected with the Pan-Slavic agitators now known to be going on in Dalmatia and Herzegovina.

Governor Jovanovic's plan in dealing with the insurrection is to surround the disturbed districts by encircling his troops from Antivari, through Crivovico, up to Narenta and Drina, cutting off all communications with the outer world, especially with the Novi-Bazar district. The rebels, however, are still in the district, and the Montenegrin frontier remains open. As to the Austrian forces on the spot, there were in December last in Dalmatia ten battalions, and in Bosnia and Herzegovina forty-two battalions of infantry, and seven of Chasseurs, with forty light, sixteen heavy, and sixteen mountain guns, and four squadrons of cavalry. All the battalions were on the peace footing, consisting of three hundred and twenty men each, so that altogether there were twenty thousand men and seventy-four guns in the south-eastern provinces in question. Since then twenty-four battalions have been sent to the frontier, and the reinforcements seven battalions for Bosnia, the remainder, numbering together ten thousand men, are stationed in Herzegovina, from Trebinje to Bilek, Gasko, and Fotcha. It is considered that, in order effectively to surround the disturbed districts, at least twenty thousand more troops will be required. This will raise the total of the forces in Dalmatia and Herzegovina to fifty thousand men.

### THE PERSECUTION OF JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The Odessa correspondent of the *Times* writes:—  
I am enabled to send you a word or two of explanation with respect to the Warsaw anti-Jewish riots on Christmas Day from a non-Russian official source. A great deal of blame has been cast upon the Warsaw authorities for not having put an end at once, as they could have easily done, to the disgraceful attacks and acts of pillage which have been going on since the 1st inst. in Warsaw and its districts some 60,000 troops were stationed, the rioters were allowed to carry on their murderous and devastating work almost unmolested, owing to the feeble attempts of the police. The fact is that Major-General Boutlerin, the Chief of Police at Warsaw, who has supreme control over the peace of the town, was at that moment in St. Petersburg, and his assistant, Colonel Polnoff, whom he had left in charge, was no upset and undecided that he did nothing but wait for General Boutlerin's return. General Boutlerin at once started back for Warsaw, and his arrival immediately put a stop to the disorders. At the time of the recent anti-Semitic riots at Kiel a corresponding anti-Semitic effervescence was observable among the population of Warsaw, but General Boutlerin at once posted patrols all over the town, and thus effectually nipped the affair in the bud. The anti-Semites seem to have been watching their opportunity, and to have taken good advantage of General Boutlerin's absence on this occasion, while his assistant appears to have been afraid to take any extreme measures on his own responsibility to put down the outbreak.

### POLITICAL RUMOUR.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, writing on Monday night, says:—  
I had good reason to believe that the British Commissioners for the negotiation of the French Commercial Treaty have drawn up for communication, not to their French colleagues, but to the French Government, the grounds of their objection to the latest French proposals, and that this very explicit statement will be brought by the Foreign Office to the notice of M. Gambetta for the information of the French Government, in order to invite an intervention should the conclusion of a special treaty appear in spite of existing circumstances desirable. It is not possible to say that any great confidence is felt in a satisfactory result arising from this proceeding. But it may happen that by a direct communication between the two Governments, with knowledge on both sides of the position at which the respective Commissions have arrived, the consequences of a failure to succeed in agreement may be more clearly perceived.

The announcement that Ministers will be in town on Friday has caused some surprise, and it can hardly yet be affirmed with certainty. But Lord Granville, who is in London, is understood to be gravely occupied with the Egyptian question, and, to a certain extent, with the present crisis in the negotiations as to the French Treaty. I believe Lord Granville called upon the Prince of Wales to-day before his Royal Highness left town for Sandringham. The Foreign Secretary is understood to be in London at this time of the recess without there being a strong likelihood of Cabinet Councils being imminent, and, as fully half the members of the Cabinet are in London, the truth of the statement that on Friday next the Government will meet in Council is not likely to be a personal intention with regard to returning to London. His presence in Downing-street would not astonish those who are aware that the two great bills for next session—the County Government Bill and the London Government Bill—will require a certain amount of deliberative decision upon points of first importance which cannot be settled by Mr. Dawson or Sir William Harcourt without reference to the Prime Minister. Although these and other bills will not be dealt with by Parliament until the return of the recess, the Government will be prepared in order that the Cabinet may be free to decide whether or not it would be advisable to introduce them before the reform of the rules is undertaken. If it is decided to conclude the deliberative procedure in the House, it might be found desirable to introduce the County Government Bill, in order that it might be printed and circulated for consideration while the reform of the rules was engaging the attention of the House.

The contest in the North Riding of Yorkshire is attracting great attention among politicians in London. It is regarded as important for many reasons. Next session is to be a county session, and besides the question of local government, there are a number of other questions connected with the counties which are in the horizon of politics. Mr. Rowlandson is eminently a representative man in all the questions affecting the farmers' interests. He won his spurs in Yorkshire by displaying careful attention to and knowledge of the agricultural interests in connection with railway charges. One of the most important political questions of the moment is whether the county constituencies are really as Liberal and as disposed for reform as they have been thought to be. Members of Parliament have been a good deal in contact with the North Riding constituency lately, and the only chance of Mr. Rowlandson's failure lies in the fact that there has been no contest in that division since the introduction of the ballot, and that the tenant farmers do not feel confident in his secrecy. This is a feeling the power and extent of which, it is said, no one can understand without experience, and no amount of reasoning and explanation will in many cases succeed in convincing the farmer that the introduction of the ballot until that is reached as the result of successive elections.

There is a good deal of strong feeling expressed to-day about Egypt, but there is a probability that the public excitement is not reflected in the Foreign Office, where the situation, although serious, does not seem to cause any alarm. This probably arises from the completeness of the understanding which exists between the Governments of England and France. Perhaps a further reason is that the Government do not accept the telegrams relating to the Egyptian "Parliament" as having been a good deal of the case really warrant. It is hardly necessary to say that the Egyptian "Parliament" is in the earliest stage of representative development, and is something like what the British Parliament was in the early days of its history. The Egyptian "Parliament" is a deliberative body. Further, there is another reason for the comparative calmness of the Government, and it is because there is in official quarters no question whatever as to according to the overthrow of the French and English Consuls in Egypt, the Egyptian "Parliament" is a deliberative body. The Governments are resolved upon the course they will undertake in case of need. Sir Charles Dilke is understood to have discussed the matter fully with M. Gambetta lately. The experience of concerted action by the Government of France, should that be needful, has not led to the opinion that it presents an insuperable difficulty. It succeeded perfectly under Lord Dufferin in the Lebanon, and it has been effective on more than one occasion in the Crimea.

### THE NEW PARLIAMENTARY RULES.

We (*Standard*) believe that the following are the principal changes in the Rules of the House of Commons which have been under the consideration of the Committee of Privileges, and which have not yet been finally settled, and probably some modifications may be made before Parliament meets.  
It is proposed to limit the number of occasions on which the principle of a Bill may be discussed. At present a debate may be raised on a principle of a Bill on the introduction and first reading—usually, but not necessarily, taken together—the second reading, the motion to go into Committee, the Report, the third reading, and on the question that the Bill do pass. In future the discussion of the principle of a Bill will be confined to the introduction (when, if leave be given, the Bill is to be read a first time, as a matter of course), to the second reading and to the third reading.  
With regard to the power of closing debate, it is proposed that the Speaker (or in Council, the whole House, the Chairman) may, on his own motion or on the demand of a certain number of members, put the proposition that the question then before the House "be now put." On this question no debate is to be allowed, and it is at once to be decided by a division. A simple majority, except in certain stated cases, will be sufficient to carry the motion that the question be now put. The exceptions cases will probably include the second reading of a Bill, and Votes of Supply of an unusual character, such as Votes of Extraordinary Naval and Military Expenditure, and in these cases a majority of two to one will be required for closing a debate.  
Certain classes of bills are to be referred to large select committees, partly nominated by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection; and with regard to these bills the stage of committee in the whole House will be dispensed with. The bills to which this rule will apply will be mainly bills on the

principle of which no great difference of opinion exists, or which involve questions of administration rather than policy. The House itself will have the opportunity of discussing the details of such bills, and of making amendments on the Report.

It is proposed to facilitate proceedings in committee by providing that in committee of the whole House no member shall have power to move more than once, during the debate on the same question, either that the Chairman do report progress, or that the Government do leave the Committee, or that more than once to each separate motion, and that no member who has made one of these motions have power to make another on the same question. A resolution to this effect was placed on the paper by Sir S. Northcote in 1879, the Committee, without allowing debate or amendment on the question that the Speaker leave the Chair. It will also be provided that after a certain date (probably the 1st of July), when Supply is put down on any day (except Friday), the same Rule shall apply.

Provision will be made for giving the Government more complete control of the business on Government nights. At present Orders of the Day must be put first; and if the Government desire to bring on a motion for leave to bring in a bill, or any other motion, they must first move the postponement of the Order of the Day. This often leads to discussion and waste of time. In future the Government will have absolute power of arranging the business on their own days.

Some changes will also be proposed with regard to private Members' bills. Under the present system, immediately after the opening of the session, every Wednesday up to the end of July is practically appropriated. In future, no member will be allowed to fix the second reading of a bill for any day a month beyond its introduction; and, probably, after a certain period of the session, committees on bills which have been read a second time by a certain proportionate majority will obtain precedence over second readings.  
A proposal will be made for the modification of the half-past twelve rule—the rule which prevents official business being taken after half-past twelve. It is not to be applied to the introduction of bills, or to the appointment and nomination of select committees. In future, a notice of opposition, to be effective as a block, will require to be given by a certain number of members, say ten, and the rule also will be made inapplicable to the report and third reading of bills.

### COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, TUESDAY.  
The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by Lady Weymouth, General Sir Sereno Highness, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, K.C.B., and Captain Lord Albert Seymour, Aide-de-Camp to his Serene Highness, arrived at Osborne yesterday. Her Majesty's dinner in the evening included Princess Beatrice, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Lady Weymouth, the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, the Dowager Countess of Lisburne, Lord Albert Seymour, Major-General Du Plat, and the Master of the Household. The Queen walked out with Princess Beatrice this morning, and visited the Empress Eugénie at Osborne. Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Weimar and Lord Albert Seymour have left Osborne.

A grand meet of the West Norfolk Fox-hounds took place at Norbro Hall, Norfolk, on Tuesday. The Prince and Princess of Wales, who were present, were received by Mr. Anthony Hamond, master of the hounds, and a large assembly. After partaking of refreshments, both the Prince and Princess hunted. A fox was found at the back of the wood, and was soon lost. A second, found near Westacre, went to earth after a moderate run. The day's proceedings were greatly marred by heavy fog.  
His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh visited Peterhead on Tuesday, where he inspected the coast-guard and naval reserve. An address was presented to his Royal Highness by the magistrates and town council, and his visit was made the occasion of a great demonstration of loyalty by the loyal populace. His Royal Highness left for Rathay and Fraserburgh, where he was to be the guest of Lord Saltoun for the evening.

The Duke of Cambridge has arrived at Orwell Park, near Ipswich, on a visit to Colonel Tomline.  
Count and Countess Bathany have left Enniskerry, near Dublin, for the Continent.

The funeral of the late Sir Richard Malins is fixed to take place at Bray Church, near Maidenhead, on Saturday next.

### LONDON GOSSIP.

FROM THE "WORLD."  
It was the Queen's desire that Prince Albert's compositions should be "printed as manuscript," and not circulated. But the Prince was so very popular that everything he wrote found its way into the public domain. So, in consequence of frequent demands, the Queen consented to permit the public sale of the volume. All the grace and melody of a gifted organization, combined with a degree of learning rather rare in an amateur, would render the book valuable even if it were not the work of a Royal Master. With his well-known amiability he took particular care to make all the songs comfortably easy and not trying as to compass, whereas in the *Invasion* all *Armonia* he showed himself rather clever in four-part writing.

Mr. Austin Mackenzie's charming country house is not likely to suffer at the hands of its present tenant, Sir Samuel Wilson has brought home from Australia, besides a large fortune, a great admiration for what is historic and venerable in his native land. The house, gardens, and grounds will be kept up with jealous care, and with no stint as to cost. "I feel sure," said Sir Samuel, over the wine and walnuts one day last week, "that I could not have come to any part of England where the country is more beautiful or the surroundings are so pleasant." The first time I saw this district was at the end of summer, when everything was looking its best; and I was so delighted with the drive from Maidenhead to Wycombe, that I felt I had never met, in any part of the world, with scenery more beautiful.

Mr. Austin Mackenzie's spirited undertaking to hunt the South Bucks country with half of the sometimes famous O.B.H. pack is yielding abundant satisfaction to sportsmen thereabout. The district has been much neglected; but the tenant farmers are showing an interest in the sport, and are fairly plentiful. Several capital runs have been had recently at Hall Barn and Chequers Court. A grand hunt ball at High Wycombe or Great Marlborough is now on the tapis.

Snipe, once the *pièce de résistance* of Irish game-bags, were so improved on the fact of their native swamps and bogs by the frosts and snows of last year, that the bags made by sportsmen, even in Kerry and Cork, are wretched in comparison with former seasons; fourteen couple being about the best I have heard of in the south-west. Woodcocks,

too, are sadly vanished—on *dit* blown away by the equinoctial and other later storms!

Private theatricals are somewhat the fashion now in Ireland. The Castleknock success, where the Hon. Mr. Gerald Brooke and Mrs. J. Brooke made so favourable an impression on their audience's purses and sympathies, has led to rivalry and imitation; and I hear Johnstown-Kennedy, Sir J. Kennedy's park and mansion, will be festive next week with amateur actors and actresses.

But generally festivities in Ireland are of a lugubrious kind this winter, and very far between. Mr. Kavanagh had fixed for a party at Borris, unfortunately on the day of humiliation, and as only short notice of this fact was given, the postponement of the feast caused considerable inconvenience. Lady Frances Dwyne was more fortunate; she gathered the country Wexford together on Tuesday, for a concert the day before that chosen for national grief. But this also was somewhat of a novel nature: the guests, amounting to nearly seventy, arrived at half-past one; music began at once; during an interval, lunch was served; and then the musicians hurried back to their instruments to get through the programme before dusk, the object being to disperse before nightfall, for fear of lurking assassins and stray shots. Night, however, came on apace, and as all the guests joined heartily in "God save the Queen," in the hall, with the windows unclosed, before starting, it was well no Captain Moonlight was lurking outside to scatter a few shots amongst them, as he did at the marriage festivities near Cork.

The Royal Irish are having a bad time of it among the dandies of the day. They are compelled to attend the Ladies' Land meetings Sunday after Sunday, and ask the lively young persons who attend them for their names. The mischievous maidens, most of whom have been educated at convent schools, have now taken to answering the staid queries in German French, and even Latin. Under the circumstances the policeman's lot is not a happy one, for *poliglot* dictionaries are not included in his "kit."

The Badminton Club will end shortly into a new stage of existence. The premises will become the property of the Badminton Club and Residential Chambers Company; and the extensive additions and alterations will be commenced forthwith. At a general meeting of the Club, held last Thursday, and over which the Duke of Devonshire presided, an attack of gout that kept him in Gloucestershire, would have presided, the sums already subscribed were found quite large enough to warrant the new company in beginning operations. The Residential Chambers, in such a situation, are bound to be a great success. There was a very pleasant house-dinner on Thursday evening after the meeting the Badminton is rather famous for these gatherings, and, under the influence of good-fellowship and a little Giesler and Ayala, "the night was filled with music," and the fact of the destructive explosion on board H.M.S. *Triumph* raises two important questions: first, how did xerotine sicative get introduced into the navy? and why was it kept in the paint-stores of the ship in direct contravention of an order that it be inflammable articles are to be placed in the paint-room? At the official inquiry which the Admiralty will be bound to make into the fatality, prominence must be given to these two points; and upon them may hang a tale. Xerotine sicative has no anti-corrosive properties, is inflammable, and is a very bad preservative. It was used with paint to make the paint dry rapidly; and, if it was issued without the approval of Admiralty experts, it will be no excuse to plead that, upon its explosive qualities being discovered, its employment in the navy was discontinued, and its return into store of unused quantities ordered.

Professor W. B. Richmond is at Hawarden this week painting a portrait of Mr. Gladstone for Christ Church, Oxford. Besides several fine portraits, a large picture has just been completed by the same artist for the spring exhibition; it represents Prometheus loosened from his fetters by Hercules, while the latter shoots with an arrow the eagle that has been preying upon Prometheus.  
Fashion in deformity is a subject so trite, that it has almost ceased to be, in any degree, sensational, and awakes but a languid interest in the female mind, or in what they are sometimes pleased to call their minds. I hear, however, that Mr. Treves, of the London Hospital, is preparing a series of most harrowing drawings of the results of "tight-lacing," and of the various dyes, and pigments, all taken from the life, for the lecture which he is to deliver for the Kensington Health Society on this subject at the Kensington Vestry Hall on February 25, at three o'clock. As every lady who attends will have a *prima facie* right to be set to rights in the fashion, a large attendance may be expected.

The recent death of Mr. James Wylie, the tenant of the farm of Mossiel, near Mauchline, Ayrshire, is noticeable from the fact that it was the first time that a farmer had been killed by a steam plough since the late Mr. Burns died, being the second tenant after the poet and his brother Gilbert. It was while at Mossiel that the bard wrote some of his finest productions. The next of "wee sleekit, cowrin', tim'rous mouse" was upturned in one of the fields there, and there were no longer any more of the kind which the daisy's bloom. During Mr. Wylie's long occupancy thousands of persons from all parts of the world visited the farm, and they always received a most genial welcome. All the local information about his illustrious predecessor was at his disposal, and was given by the old man who has just passed away.

HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT.  
An inquest, held on the body of the poor woman who was poisoned a few days ago by a nurse in Guy's Hospital, reminds us that hospital management in London is being tardily reformed by means of managements. The coroner has his own views on the poor institutions the work which Howard did for our goals. All the efforts of those who, in the face of bitter obloquy, endeavoured to improve the nursing arrangements at Guy's Hospital failed to convince people that it was, as regards these, in any way done for the worse. "Scandals" and inquests have effected what reasoning, plaint, and pleading failed to accomplish. A new system of nursing was set on foot, and a hospital that had been for years a den of vice and debauchery was partially purified. Nurses were no longer allowed to have their "followers" coming about the place whenever it pleased them to enjoy their society. The patients were not permitted to drive with each other a roaring trade in the stimulants that were lavishly supplied to them, and recklessly introduced a few rudimentary ideas of law, order, and discipline into the nursing organisation, much still remains to be done before the patients can get fairly treated. There are, as shown by the evidence laid before the coroner who held the inquest on the body of the woman Barlow, no fixed rules in the hospital as to matters which do not come within the control of the nursing department, and it is clear that for want of them people are every now and then running the risk of being killed in a place to which they have gone to be cured. Many illustrations of the mischief caused by this defect might be given. The other day in Guy's, a lady pupil—the daughter, it may be remarked, of one of the most eminent, not to say fashionable, of living physicians—adventured to give a patient a bottleful of sac-











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No. 20,771.—FOUNDED 1814.

PARIS, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1882.

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LONDON, JANUARY 23—24, 1882.

## THE ANGLO-FRENCH CONTROL OF EGYPT.

We feel that there are few indeed who are not now prepared to recognize the force and justice of the criticisms we originally passed upon the policy that ended in the establishment of the Anglo-French Control in Egypt. We questioned the expediency of the measures adopted and the urgency of the motives avowed. The deposition of Ismail Pacha, the elevation of Tewfik to the sovereignty, and the appeal to the shadowy authority of the Sultan, were dictated, not so much by alarm at the adventures of the Egyptian Government in Equatorial Africa, or by sympathy for the sufferings of the oppressed fellahs, as by financial interests brought into play by the late Khedive's extravagance and dishonesty. It appeared to us that the true political interests of England in Egypt would have been better secured by an independent course. Nor have we looked with more satisfaction, as our readers are aware, on some of the more recent developments of the policy of the Anglo-French intervention. But we have to do with a state of things founded upon the intervention and inseparable from it. The Control was established by England and France with the assent of all the other European Powers. Not only was no protest made at the time by Germany—where the National party in Egypt are now expecting vaguely to obtain sympathy and, perhaps, succour—but the initiative on which the two Western Powers acted was supplied by Prince Bismarck. In fact, if not in form, England and France acted in Egypt as the delegates of the European concert, and, having accepted that mission and undertaken serious responsibilities in consequence, they cannot surrender their rights or give way to anarchical disturbances and unworthy intrigues. The European Powers have acquiesced in what has been accomplished in Egypt by the Anglo-French Control, and it must be admitted, even by those who censured the policy in which that system originated, that a large measure of practical success has been achieved. The finances of Egypt have been once more put upon a basis of solvency and regularity, while at the same time the burdens upon the peasant-cultivators have been immensely lightened. As all the European Governments were substantially responsible for the establishment of the Control, so, too, both parties in this country have had their share in upholding it. The question, therefore, is one which it ought to be possible to discuss both at home and abroad, in a spirit of sobriety and with complete freedom from bias. It is true, indeed, that while insisting on the necessity for firmness in our Egyptian policy we must acknowledge that the claims of the National party in Egypt, so far as they are not factitious, deserve much sympathy. One of the principal objections to the Anglo-French intervention was that it shattered whatever native elements of strength existed in Egypt. Ismail Pacha was removed, but his successor has scarcely been from the beginning a ruler at all. Sir William Gregory has lately pleaded the cause of the Egyptian National party and their leader, Arabi Bey, with much literary power and dialectical skill, and we are by no means disposed to reject his conclusions, regarded in the abstract. If it were possible to go back to the situation with which we had to deal in Egypt before Ismail Pacha's Government broke down hopelessly, there would be much difficulty in pre-emptorily rejecting the pretensions of the National party. It is probable that if the trial had been made the Egyptian Ministry, as published in a manifesto on the subject, in which he declares that duty imposes upon him and his colleagues, "not to abandon the flag for which they have fought, and to which they are devoted. The principles of the press are public patrimony, which is not to be sold or bartered. For our own part," he continues, "we shall stand on our guard over this patrimony. We may be removed, but we will never surrender." Both his patriotism and his resolve were soon put to the test, for, according to a telegram, he has already resigned his post on the *Diritto*, and established a rival paper called the *Rassegna*, taking his entire staff with him. This certainly looks as though there were some truth in the original reports, that the purchase was made with a political motive, and that the purchasers, in the case of the *Diritto* at least, acted with undue precipitation, and showed their hand too soon. The *Fanfulla* declares that the conversion cannot affect its policy, as Signor Obieght already owns seven-twelfths of the paper; but it may, like the *Diritto*, have to reckon with the eminent News-agent's French partners. If the object of the transaction be really a political one, its certain failure may be predicted, for no contract between the proprietors of these papers and a foreign Company can either bind the Editors and staff to remain and advocate principles to which they are opposed, or prevent them from following the example of the Editor of the *Diritto* and setting up a rival journal. As a commercial speculation the purchase is a still more doubtful adventure, for it is to be presumed that the subscribers to paper are for the most part composed of those whose politics it advocates, and when it adopts diametrically

enough, without other backing, to try the experiment of an independent Egypt ruled as the Mamelukes ruled it, with the force of military oligarchy. But such a dominion would not be national in any true sense; it would be undermined by its inherent vices, and it would not be able to cope with the jealousies and ambitions to which it would be exposed. It is proper to pay every attention to the representations of the Nobles and to bear in mind that the aims of the National party, though they may be impracticable, are worthy of respect. We have no doubt that the English and French Governments will do all that may be possible to remove any cause of complaint and to promote the gradual and steady development of a state of things in which it may be practicable to hand over to the people of Egypt a large part of the control now administered by Europeans. But to this end the co-operation of the Egyptians themselves is needed. Nothing can more seriously impede progress in the direction of Egyptian self-government than the recurrence of panics and tumults, appeals to violence and fanaticism, the menace of military force, and the reliance upon the secret working of international animosities and grudges. These disturbing movements tend only to anarchy, and into anarchy this country cannot, in any circumstances whatever, allow Egypt to fall.—Times.

## FRENCH SPECULATION IN ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS.

The many and serious questions which have been agitating Italian political circles of late have sunk into insignificance in comparison with the strange news that six of the leading Italian Newspapers have been purchased en bloc by France. The wildest speculations are, of course, indulged in as to the nature and objects of the transaction, but it seems to be admitted on all hands that the *Diritto*, the *Fanfulla*, the *Liberta*, the *Bersagliere*, and the *Italia* of Rome, together with the *Pungolo* of Milan, have been transferred to the Banque Romaine of Paris, by a well-known banker and newspaper agent and proprietor for the sum of two million eight hundred thousand francs, or one hundred and twelve thousand pounds sterling. The account of the affair which gains most general credence is that about a week ago it was telegraphed to Paris that agents of M. Gambetta were in Rome negotiating for the purchase of one or more newspapers, to be employed in counteracting the feeling of distrust against France which has been recently growing up in Italy. The communication added that a condition of the sale was that the newspapers thus bought should for the future support the views and policy of the purchasers. Signor Obieght, the banker and Newspaper proprietor above referred to, at once wrote to the Roman evening Journals disclaiming any desire to control the policy of the Press, and explained the affair by saying that he had simply converted his own large Newspaper agency into a limited liability Company, with a capital of three million francs, divided into five hundred franc shares. This apology or explanation was not very readily accepted, and the report was made that, at any rate, the great News-agent had, by his own admission, given to a French Company the control of a large portion of the Press, so far as proprietary rights were concerned. The transaction may, as Signor Obieght asserts, be a purely commercial one, but the Italian public and the Italian Journalists seem to think otherwise, and accordingly all other topics of public interest are for the moment forgotten. Signor Crispi's organ, the *Riforma*, bitterly laments the manner in which French commercial enterprise is drawing an insidious network of material interests around Italy, and, without reason, reminds its readers that these very interests were made the pretext of the Tunisian Expedition and the Joint Control in Egypt. It concludes the article with a prediction that France will, if such things are allowed to go on, create a Tunis or an Egypt at the foot of the Alps in order to have a pretext, when opportunity offers, for intervening in Italian affairs, in the combined interests of the Republican and Clerical parties, who, it is to be presumed, will coalesce on this occasion. Only the view of the vast advantages which France will derive from the purchase of Italian newspapers. It further warns its fellow patriots that they may wake up some morning to find a Hannibal not only at the gates, but in the house. The journals which are said to have been thus recklessly traded away to the stranger have made strong protests in favour of their own independence, and declared that their editors and staff will resign to a man rather than submit to foreign dictation as to their politics. Signor Torras, editor of the *Diritto*, which has always supported the Left, and is one of the organs of the present Ministry, has published a manifesto on the subject, in which he declares that duty imposes upon him and his colleagues, "not to abandon the flag for which they have fought, and to which they are devoted. The principles of the press are public patrimony, which is not to be sold or bartered. For our own part," he continues, "we shall stand on our guard over this patrimony. We may be removed, but we will never surrender." Both his patriotism and his resolve were soon put to the test, for, according to a telegram, he has already resigned his post on the *Diritto*, and established a rival paper called the *Rassegna*, taking his entire staff with him. This certainly looks as though there were some truth in the original reports, that the purchase was made with a political motive, and that the purchasers, in the case of the *Diritto* at least, acted with undue precipitation, and showed their hand too soon. The *Fanfulla* declares that the conversion cannot affect its policy, as Signor Obieght already owns seven-twelfths of the paper; but it may, like the *Diritto*, have to reckon with the eminent News-agent's French partners. If the object of the transaction be really a political one, its certain failure may be predicted, for no contract between the proprietors of these papers and a foreign Company can either bind the Editors and staff to remain and advocate principles to which they are opposed, or prevent them from following the example of the Editor of the *Diritto* and setting up a rival journal. As a commercial speculation the purchase is a still more doubtful adventure, for it is to be presumed that the subscribers to paper are for the most part composed of those whose politics it advocates, and when it adopts diametrically

opposite opinions, it is only reasonable to suppose that they will cease to take it in. It is difficult, therefore, to see what end can be served by the purchase, though the ways of political underhanders are always devious, even when they are not further complicated by the mysteries of the great Bull and Bear fight of the Bourse. One thing is certain, and that is that the Italian mind is much exercised about the affair, and that there seems no disposition whatever on the part of Italian journalists to barter their freedom of thought and speech either at the bidding of speculators or foreign politicians. We hope that it would be, in any case, impossible to purchase an Italian newspaper in the interests of foreign politicians; but however that may be, the enterprising French Company who have bought up the six leading Italian papers have clearly not gone the right way to work to secure that object.—Standard.

## M. GAMBETTA'S ABERRATIONS.

The position of affairs in France has at present a more than common interest for Englishmen. At no time since the Crimean war has English policy been so interwoven with French policy as it is now. We are carrying out a joint protectorate and negotiating a commercial treaty. More than this, we have so managed matters that the smooth working of these arrangements seems to depend on the continuance in power of a particular Minister. We have not only put our eggs in one basket, as regards Europe—France being at this moment the only Power whose support by courtesy, we can call friendly—but we have put them all in one basket as regards France herself. The friendship of France, such as it is, seems to be identified with M. Gambetta. If he remains Prime Minister we shall retain it; if he is beaten, among the first fruits of his defeat will probably be the adoption of a protectionist policy in fiscal matters, and possibly of a more irritating if not a more active policy in Egyptian matters. Englishmen, therefore, cannot but watch with something like personal concern the method in which M. Gambetta carries on his struggle with the Chamber of Deputies. What meets their eyes, at all events, is not reassuring as to M. Gambetta's chances. In his interview with the Committee of Thirty-three on Saturday he seems to have gone out of his way to irritate the Extreme Left, and in doing this to have taken a line which was equally well calculated to offend Moderate Republicans. The only sections of opinion who could have been genuinely pleased by his remarks are the Bonapartists and the Legitimists: the Bonapartists because the Prime Minister showed himself not indisposed to what may at the least be colourably described as a coup d'Etat; the Legitimists because M. Gambetta does but emphatically their favourite thesis that a French Republic must always end in Caesarism. In saying what he did M. Gambetta was doubly ill-advised. It is always a mistake to talk of a coup d'Etat beforehand, but it is still more so when it is certain that the Minister who talks of it would not have the power to carry it out. The point pressed on M. Gambetta was—Supposing the National Assembly to disregard the vote of the two Chambers defining the questions upon which it is to deliberate, how can this be prevented? M. Gambetta answered that such action would be illegal and that the President of the Republic would consider how to deal with it. There does not seem to be anything in the Constitution to bear out M. Gambetta's view; and unless he could give Mr. Grévy chapter and verse for what he asked him to do, we may be sure that Mr. Grévy would refuse. The President has bided his time very patiently, even when it seemed almost hopeless that it would ever come; but he would then have the finest opportunity that he could desire. M. Gambetta would have proposed to a Constitutional Chief of the State to disperse a National Assembly calling all the members of both Chambers convoked to revise the Constitution: could there be a more odious light in which to present an Advanced Republican Minister to the nation? Mr. Grévy would only have to announce that, as M. Gambetta had proposed to him to violate his obligations under the Constitution by dispersing the National Assembly he had thought it his duty to dismiss him, to make sure for the time of the support of the whole country. M. Gambetta, therefore, has been guilty of the twofold error of uttering a threat which he could not carry out, and of hinting at without giving the gravest and most lasting cause of offence to the majority of the Deputies. His prospects, consequently, seem to be very much worse than they were down to Saturday. He has given the Chamber real cause to doubt his fitness for office. Each of his dealings with this question of revision has been more imprudent than the last. He has proposed unnecessary changes in the Constitution by way of excuse for foisting *serutin de liste* into the organic laws; he has made his continuance in office dependent on his success in bullying the Chamber of Deputies into accepting the Government proposal; and now, when he sees that the National Assembly may slip through his fingers, he intimates that if it goes beyond the line marked for it will be dealt with as a revolutionary body. So strange a series of imprudences, and worse than imprudences, has seldom been seen.—St. James's Gazette.

## THE RISING IN DALMATIA.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphed on Monday night:—The fact is becoming obvious that Austria will not merely have to battle against single bands of insurgents, but that the insurrection is well organized and directed from a central point. President Tizza has sent a circular to the paper. Post appealing to their patriotism to publish no more details upon the movements of the troops in Dalmatia and the occupied provinces, as the publication of these details might render the military disposition of no avail.

On the 20th last bands of insurgents appeared in the Duvrava. 150 insurgents forced the gendarmes of Glavicevo to withdraw to Konjica. More insurgents are advancing towards Konjica. 3,000 insurgents have assembled above Kameno, near Vratlo. The general commanding in Berajovo reports that 500 insurgents armed with Snider rifles, and several hundred armed with hatchets have assembled in the Zagorje, commanded by Sereza Turza. Other bands are terrorizing the surrounding districts. On the 17th the gendarmes of Kalinovo were attacked by 150 insurgents. Three companies sent to their aid from Fotseha found Vratlo

occupied by 200 insurgents. Three more companies, from Jelez and Borja, succeeded in clearing Vratlo. News from Kalinovo states that an encounter took place on the 18th between Ulok and Nevesinje. A Jaeger battalion on the 18th reconnoitred the district round Ulok, and found a line of sentinels extending for 3,000 paces. After an hour's conflict the battalion returned to Nevesinje. Travellers arriving from South Dalmatia report that the gendarmery garrison in Stolic was set fire to. Nine persons perished in the flames. The same day several persons quarrelled with the landlord of a tavern and killed him, although his wife offered them 4,000 florins to spare his life.

The Crisovian insurgents are circulating all over the country a revolutionary proclamation. It is written in Serbian, with Cyrillic letters. The contents are of such a character that they cannot be reproduced in Austria.

The Lloyd Company has received orders to have ships ready to transport two infantry regiments and four Jaeger battalions. The regiments of several regiments in Prague, Temesvar, Znaim, and Vienna have received orders to march south. The English squadron in the Mediterranean is concentrating at Malta.

We learn from Ragusa that, last Thursday, Prince Nicholas of Montenegro received a Herzegovinian deputation in Danjowgrad asking for support from Montenegro. The Austro-Hungarian Minister-resident was present. The Prince answered that they must not calculate upon his support, and ordered the return of the deputation. In Polgoritz fifteen Albanians and seven Bulgarians, a priest among the number, have been arrested and sent to Constantinople. They took part in the late riots in Macedonia, instigated by the Panslavist committee in Sophia. In four Communes of the Petrovatz district recruits from Christian families have been enlisted without difficulty. They promised to serve the Emperor faithfully, and hoped that the Austro-Hungarian Government would be satisfied with the intention of emigrating; but they will probably do nothing of the kind. They declare that conscience forbids them to serve any other than the Sultan. News reaches us that the Sultan is giving land to the Bosnian emigrants.

## THE EGYPTIAN DIFFICULTY.

The *Standard* correspondent at Cairo telegraphs on Monday night:—As though I cannot say that the situation has as yet materially improved, it seems to me that there are various indications pointing in the direction of a not unfriendly settlement of the main points in dispute. I have had the opportunity of discussing with many influential persons, of all shades of opinion, the various aspects of the crisis, and they concur in thinking that unless something very unexpected occurs a compromise ought to be, and will be, effected. One fact is certain—that the Egyptian Government is anxious to arrange a compromise with the Chamber of Deputies, with reference to the demand to vote the Budget. The proposal of Cherif is to the effect that the Chamber shall nominate a number of Deputies corresponding in number to the members of the Government and the Controllers General, and that they shall participate in fixing the Budget items. Whether this partial proposal will be accepted or not is at present uncertain. What seems to me more important is that the general principle has been considerably lowered in the last forty-eight hours, and that many high-flown pretensions are no longer pressed. In a state of things where a single rash act or foolish speech might provoke not merely an *énervé* but a revolution, it would be unwise to sustain a too rash attitude. Nor is it easy to explain in so many words in what particular respects the situation may be said to have improved. But my impression distinctly is that, in the absence of the unexpected, the worst of the crisis is over, and that what remains to be done is to be beyond the reach of a clever and conciliatory diplomatist.

## COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

**OSBORNE, MONDAY.**

The Queen went out this morning with Princess Beatrice, The Hon. and Rev. Francis Baring, and the Honour of dining with her Majesty yesterday.

The Prince of Wales and a distinguished party arrived on Monday afternoon at Dranghting Thorpe, the seat of Mr. Sykes, M.P., for a week's shooting and hunting. Amongst the party invited to meet the Prince are the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Londesborough, the Marquis of Abergrenny, the Earl of Arundel, Lord Ormskirk, Lord Herries, and Sir G. O. Wombwell.

The Duke of Edinburgh, who arrived at Kirkwall on Sunday night, landed on Monday morning for the purpose of inspecting the coastguard and receiving the freedom of the burgh. The streets of the town were crowded. His Royal Highness received a most hearty welcome. After inspecting the coastguard His Royal Highness was driven to the County Buildings, where the freedom of the burgh was conferred by Provost Reid, who, in the presence of his speech, referred to the visit made by the Prince Consort 18 years ago. The illustrious freeman briefly replied, thanking the Provost and magistrates for the honour conferred upon him. Enthusiastic honours were given for the Queen, the Royal Family, and the Duchess of Edinburgh by those present, she hall being crowded.

The Duke of Westminster left Grosvenor House on Monday for Eaton Hall.

The Earl and Countess of Rosslyn have arrived in the Carlton-gardens from Easton Lodge, Dunmow, for the season.

Sir Watkin Wynne contradicts the report to the effect that he did not intend to notify the days on which his bounds would meet during the stay of the Empress of Austria at Combermere Abbey.

The combined Leicestershire Hunt Ball is to take place at the County Assembly Rooms at Leicester on February 9, under the patronage of the Duke of Rutland, Earl Ferrers, and the masters of the other five packs hunting within the county, viz.—The Aberlone, Billesdon, Cottingham, Fytchley, and Quorn. The gathering is expected to be most brilliant, as upwards of 80 of the principal hunting men have consented to act as stewards.

The King of Italy has conferred the order of Commander of the Royal Order of the Crown of Italy upon Mr. R. Richardson-Gardner. The Milan *Perseveranza*, in announcing this, says:—"His Majesty the King, on the proposal of the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Signor Mancini), has conferred the title of Commander of the Crown of Italy on Mr. Richardson-Gardner, member of the English Parliament. This distinction has been conferred upon him as a token of gratitude for the interest and care taken by him in behalf of the members of the Milan Blind Institution during the visit that those unfortunate creatures paid to London."

## POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

**(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")**

The Prime Minister has been asked to receive an influential deputation on the subject of the opium trade as soon after the meeting of Parliament as will be convenient to himself. Mr. Alderman McArthur (the late Lord Mayor), who, with Lord Shaftesbury, was requested by the Mahomedan community for the proposed interview, is now at Nice, on his way back to England.

Captain Knapp Barrow, C.M.G., who brought home the gold eaz from the King of Ashantee, is about to return to the Gold Coast, having been appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary to the Governor.

The annual income of London charities is shown by Mr. Howe's "Classified Directory" to have fallen during the last three years by nearly £81,000. The total, however, still reaches the enormous sum of £4,121,546, to which, as Mr. Howe observes, there are to be added the incomes of numerous institutions which do not make returns and the amount distributed in relief by church and chapel congregations. Over and above this the Earl of Shaftesbury has queried that the amount received by fraudulent charities reaches at least a quarter of a million sterling annually. This latter fact is the more deplorable since the recent diminution in the income of bona fide charities seems to have fallen heavily upon some excellent institutions. The classes most affected have been, it appears, the medical charities, the general relief charities, the charities for orphans, and those for reformation and protection—these institutions being more than others dependent on voluntary contributions.

The annual income of the Jewish sect which renounces the Talmud and other Jewish legends—having come into prominence in connection with the Jewish outrages in Russia, some information as to their numbers may be interesting. Dr. Adler, the Chief Rabbi, states that there are not more than three thousand of them in Russia. We learn from the authority of a recent traveller who has been acquainted with the Karaites, that they number at least ten thousand persons. It has been said that they are to be found only in the Crimea. Many, however, reside at Moscow, although it appears that they are not to be met with at St. Petersburg.

## ARREST OF A BANK DIRECTOR.—SOME EXCITEMENT WAS CAUSED IN MANCHESTER ON MONDAY WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN THAT MR. J. NICOL FLEMING, THE CITY OF GLASGOW BANK DIRECTOR, HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE CITY. IT APPEARS THAT ON FRIDAY LAST THE MANCHESTER POLICE RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM THE GLASGOW AUTHORITIES REQUESTING THAT REVENUE INQUIRIES MIGHT BE MADE FOR MR. FLEMING.

In consequence of the telegram Detective-sergeant Caminada was directed to make a careful inquiry into the matter, and, after almost continuous watching night and day, the officer on Monday saw Fleming walking in the grounds of a relative about eleven o'clock in the forenoon. Caminada immediately arrested him, and drove off with him to the Town Hall in a cab. The Glasgow police were at once communicated with by telegraph, and a reply was received during the course of the day to the effect that an officer would be sent off by the authorities there, and would probably arrive in Manchester during the night. On the arrival of the Glasgow detective Fleming would be handed over to his custody. It is understood that the arrest has been made under the old warrant, issued in 1878, soon after the discovery of the reckless dealings which culminated in the collapse of the bank. Fleming was a director of the bank for a period of years which ended in July, 1875. He had been involved in gigantic commercial operations of a speculative character, and, as was revealed in the Bankruptcy Court, he was insolvent as far back as 1871. At that time he owed the Bank about £24,000, but notwithstanding his position he continued to receive advances until, at the close of the year, the bank, his indebtedness amounted to over a million sterling. When the warrants were issued for the arrest of the Directors and ex-Director Fleming, the latter absconded, and it was supposed took refuge in Spain. He also visited America, and returned to England some months ago. He was examined in bankruptcy in London in November last, and on the 29th of December Mr. Sheriff Murray, in the Glasgow Bankruptcy Court, granted his discharge, which will not, however, take effect for fifteen months. At the same time the Sheriff severely condemned Fleming's conduct in failing to appear for examination in 1879, which he considered a gross contempt of court. Fleming's estate produced fifteen pence in the pound. The Prisoner will be tried either at the Glasgow Circuit Court or at the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh.

## ENGLISH LANDSCAPE PAINTING.

A glory seems to have faded from the domain of British art with the loss of John Linnell. Landscape painting has been an especial possession of these islands since they reared an art school of their own. Gainsborough, Constable, Bonington, Callcott, Crome, Turner, and Linnell make a company of which any country might be proud. The Academy has not always valued landscape painting as it ought. It does not value it adequately now. John Linnell should not have been permitted to remain outside its pale. Early appreciation might have induced him to court a dignity which later he did not need and is supposed to have declined. Landscape painters, though not to be classed with him, as genuine in their aspirations labour still; and the Academy appears to have no eyes for their merits. Elsewhere they are more highly esteemed than by the titular chiefs of their common profession. No form of art charms more irresistibly. From none does an Englishman experience a fuller satisfaction of emotions and thoughts which cannot otherwise be fully represented. Either by the power of other branches of art, or by the art itself, must be more extraordinarily exalted than might be inferred from the annual evidence in Piccadilly, or the scanty proportion of names among the Academician and Associates associated with the representation of natural scenery in a strange injustice to one department of painting, and a contempt of one of our greatest national talents. Landscape painters in these later times may, perhaps, have contributed to their own relegation to a secondary place in professional rank. They witness daily excursions into their particular province by the painters of history or domestic life. They seldom think of retaliating, as the Gainsboroughs and Turners retaliated of old, by rolling the tide of invention back to the source. If absorption in the contemplation of nature so profound as to induce the mind for anything else. The intermixture of an element of human passion or action appears in such a mood an intrusion and a discord. When the elevation of the painter's mind is such a discipline, and when he is so much absorbed in his subject, he is reluctant to tamper with the jealous monopoly of artistic thought by natural beauty must be pardoned and respected. But, for landscape painters below the highest, art cannot safely be thus confined to a single order of subjects. A painter who insists upon looking at a landscape as necessarily nothing besides, and not as a stage on which passages from the grand drama of humanity may be played, is very apt to conclude that he has created a picture when he has only sketched a colour photograph. That was what John Linnell never did, and never could have done. He had served an apprenticeship to the delineation of the characters of men before he devoted himself to a kind of landscape painting analogous to songs without history. His scenery is never desert, though the human agents may be subordinate and obscure. His landscapes are the framework of a human story, though the ostensible figures in the sunny foreground may compel attention as little as a group in a faded piece by one of the Fossais. A direct line with human life was never wanting to a work by him. Landscapes by the younger generation are too often vacant of humanity without the presence of the spirit of nature to compensate for the absence of the human element. Painters desire to force a recognition of sympathy with their historical brethren, they would do well to challenge them, more than has been recently the custom, on their own ground. John Linnell has shown on a number of occasions that he was not content to be less natural than that it is human life. If, working after his fashion, landscape painters like him do not then have their proper share in the honours of the Academy, it will be, not that they cannot, but that, like him, they will not.—Times.

## THE PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The Lord Mayor has decided to convene a public meeting at the Mansion House in order to give expression to public feeling respecting the persecution which the Jews of Russia have for some time past been suffering. The memorial presented to the Lord Mayor on the subject is signed by persons representing every shade of religious and political opinion. Among them are the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of London, Gloucester and Bristol, and Manchester; Lord Shaftesbury, Mr. Samuel Morley, Cardinal Manning, Mr. H. Richard, Professor Tyndall, Mr. Matthew Arnold, and Mr. Darwin.

A large public meeting of Jews was held in Birmingham on Sunday, which has the largest Hebrew population in the provinces. The demonstration was held under the auspices of the Birmingham Hebrew congregation, whose president occupied the chair. Resolutions were enthusiastically carried calling upon every Jewish community throughout the world to draw up petitions to the Czar praying him to grant protection, freedom, and the right of citizenship to his Jewish subjects, the petitions to be presented by a deputation formed of the leading Hebrews in Europe and America. It was also resolved to organize large public meetings in the metropolis and in all the great cities at home and abroad. An appeal to Mr. Gladstone and the British Government for assistance was further decided upon, and a committee was appointed to enlist the support of the Mayor, and to make arrangements for a town's meeting.

The Rev. Newman Hall, preaching at Christ Church, Lambeth, on Sunday, said that should it be proved that the Russian Government had encouraged the atrocities, or been culpably negligent, Christian congregations would still more emphatically denounce outrages by so-called Christians. As home politics did not prompt the former protest, neither would they prevent the expression of indignation now.

**REMISSION OF SENTENCE.**—The *East Sussex News* says that at the recent quarter sessions at Lewes, a labourer named Davage was convicted on his own confession of stealing a waterproof cloak at Crawley, on the 17th December. One of the metropolitan detectives gave evidence against the prisoner, whom he positively alleged had been convicted on several previous occasions and committed to various terms of imprisonment. The prisoner denied most emphatically all the different allegations, but the officer assured the Court he had known the prisoner from a boy, and was certain of seeing him in the act of stealing the cloak. The Court, on the other charges of the prisoner, decided to send him to penal servitude for five years. Since the trial, however, representations have been made to the authorities showing the evidence of his innocence, and the sentence was remitted, and after due inquiry the Home Secretary has acted upon the advice of the magistrates, and remitted the sentence to six months' hard labour.

**THE DYNAMITE ROBBERY IN IRELAND.**—A telegram from Limerick states that the police are in possession of information respecting the dynamite robbery which will lead them to effect arrests, and that some startling information may be hourly expected. The police are scouring the country in search of the dynamite.

**MR. BRIGHT ON WELSH AGRICULTURE.**—Replying to a communication detailing certain grievances from which farmers in Wales are represented to suffer, Mr. Bright said:—"I cannot undertake now to discuss with you the subject of Welsh agriculture, and the position and demands of Welsh farmers. I must leave your people to consider their own question and to come to something like a conclusion upon it. That there are changes which require to be made and will come, I do not doubt, but I am not sure that after being so long asleep the farmers will, on suddenly awaking, be able to measure accurately what they seem to see, or judge of the remedies for grievances under which they believe themselves to suffer. At this moment, too, I am so burdened with correspondence and engagements that I must shut all invitations to enter upon new questions. I may, however, conclude by saying that I am sure the farmers in all parts of the kingdom are stirring themselves, and I hope this unrest may be useful to themselves and to their landlords."

**A HAUNTED MAN.—Strange Story.**—A singular-looking man, who stated that his name was Hans Andersen, appeared at the Thames Police-court, on Saturday, for the purpose, as he said, of seeing the magistrates could find him some work to do. Andersen had previously come on Wednesday afternoon to make a similar application, and he then told an extraordinary story. He stated that he was a Dane, but that he had never visited his country since the year 1846, when he was driven into exile in consequence of his having got mixed up with some secret political society. Since then he had visited nearly every civilized country in the world, and had taken part in various great movements. He knew Kosuth and had fought under Garibaldi, and had been acquainted with and trusted by other leaders of men. The Emperor Nicholas of Russia knew him and feared him, for just before the commencement of the Crimean War he had had a letter seized while passing through his dominions. He was about to be transported to Siberia, when he managed to escape by bribing his guards, and after some extraordinary adventures he got across the frontier, and on board a vessel bound for England. He stayed in England for a time, and then went to America, where he arrived just as the seeds of civil war were ripening. When the strife began he joined the Secessionists, under General Beauregard. When the war was over, not caring to stay in the States any longer, he went through Italy, Spain, and Germany, and was initiated and made a member of the brotherhood of several secret societies in each of those countries. The consequence was that he became a marked man, and the Governments of the countries he had named had all conspired to hunt him down. Their emissaries were constantly upon his track trying to seize him and throw him either into a prison or an asylum. In addition to this he was haunted by his old comrades who had died long ago, night and day. Some of them were constantly with him whispering in his ears or beckoning to him with their fingers, as if asking him to join them. He had tried all he could to get away from them, but ashore or afloat their white faces were always before him. There were so many of them lately that he could not engage him. He wanted to get on board ship and pay another visit to China and Australia, but he could not, as the people who were with him prevented him, and he therefore wanted some one to go down to the shipping office with him and keep them away whilst he signed articles. The poor fellow was informed by one of the officers as he was told previously by Mr. Saunders that there was no necessity for any one to go down with him to the office, as he would not be interested if he went straight off his business. Andersen left the building, declaring that he supposed he should have to knock some of his brains out, and then they would leave him alone.







# The Illustrated London News

Evening Edition.

Head Office:—PARIS, No. 224, RUE DE RIVOLI.

Branch Office:—LONDON, 168, STRAND; NICE, 15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

No. 20,772.—FOUNDED 1814.

PARIS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMS

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## Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 24-25, 1882.

### ABSOLUTISM IN RUSSIA.

If any doubt ever existed regarding the meaning of the now famous Imperial Rescript, it must have been dispelled by the speech of Prince Bismarck in the German Parliament on Tuesday. The statement is not the less striking because it is dramatically characteristic of the man who makes it. The German Chancellor scorns any attempt at apology for the document which three weeks ago sent a shock of surprise not only throughout the Fatherland but throughout Europe. He vindicates its terms; he justifies its opportuneness; he even exalts in its necessity. He begs the Deputies to dismiss from their minds any theoretical ideas regarding the nature of the German Imperial Constitution, or of the place which the Chancellor holds in it. The Chancellor is the nominee of the Emperor; he was present in the Reichstag on Tuesday simply as the Royal Prussian Representative, or as he styles himself, the Plenipotentiary of his Royal master. Having thus defined his own position, Prince Bismarck proceeded to explain the object of the Rescript. It created no new law; it only prevented the old one from being forgotten. The Constitution gave no countenance to the maxim which of late had begun to grow up, to the effect that "the King reigns but does not govern." That might be the state of the case in England and other limited Monarchies, under a system of responsible Ministers virtually the creatures of Parliamentary majorities, by whose vote they came into or went out of office. In Prussia—and by Prussia Prince Bismarck evidently meant Germany—this custom has never prevailed, and so long as the Emperor reigns never will prevail. "I can only assume," he remarked, "that those learned persons who speak of the Constitutional supremacy of the House are afflicted with an obscure vision." This obscure vision, he went on to point out, consists in imagining that English liberty and Prussian Absolutism are one and the same thing. The Rescript is absolutely legal. The King's will is expressed in it, and he, as the counterweight of it, is responsible for anything to which it has given expression. "I am responsible for all the acts of the Sovereign, whether I countermand them or not. The signature of the King is always the chief thing." In brief, the country is governed by the King and the two Houses of the Legislature, and the Minister is the scapegoat. "That the King commands and the Minister obeys has always been a tradition in Prussia, and the legend still possesses sufficient vitality to enable the Chancellor to affirm on Tuesday that though Ministers have to make numerous concessions, the real President of the Cabinet is the King himself. There can be no mistake about the meaning of these words. They have the true Bismarckian ring, and unpalatable though they may be to German Liberals, they are the literal expression of a plain historical truth. When Prussia first received a Constitution in 1848, the King possessed absolute power. That is not surprising seeing that Absolutism was then the rule throughout Europe. Even England more than once in the previous century witnessed the spectacle of the King dismissing his advisers simply because they chose to hold opinions contrary to his own. In our day, when the Sovereign royally accepts any Minister, that is the opinion of the First Lord of the Treasury, it is essential for the welfare of the kingdom to have in office, it is difficult to conceive of George IV. objecting to Canning, because, 'as a gentleman,' he had vowed that this statesman should never be taken into the Cabinet. Yet, constitutionally, his Majesty had a perfect right to do so. Ministers in England, however, being absolutely dependent on a Parliamentary majority, the Sovereign has long ago ceased to exercise any choice not compatible with the will of the people. In Prussia this has never been the case. The King selects whom he wills, and Parliament may or may not, as seems best in its eyes, endorse the selection. Its only check is its tenure of the purse strings. But even this control, as Prince Bismarck has occasionally demonstrated, is more nominal than real. In Prussia, and more or less in all the German States, the Monarch is a weighty personality. Indeed, in 1848, very little support was given to the idea which has since grown up and partially obscured the letter of the Constitution—the idea that the King reigns but does not govern—and the theory of Government by majority was far from being generally entertained. This disputable fact Prince Bismarck begs his hearers to call to memory. Whether such a system would work in the Prussia of to-day may be doubted. But, all events, the two Kings who have sat on the Throne since the Constitution was granted have made every concession to preserve the country from drifting in that direction. The Chancellor goes further when he declares that had he pursued a Parliamentary policy in 1864 the country would have "experienced a second Olmutz," and, he adds significantly, "all of you gentlemen, perhaps, would not have been here to-day." Possibly not. To its Parliament Prussia owes little; to its Chancellor it owes a great deal. But a Parliament that has only the power to

hamper and annoy can never be an instrument for much good, and politicians who know that they will never be called on to carry out in office the principles they professed when out of it, are not likely to be wise in council or temperate in speech. The accuracy of Prince Bismarck's interpretation of the Rescript was not challenged. Herr von Bennigsen, the Leader of the National Liberals, was compelled to admit that it was "indisputably Constitutional," and the criticisms of Herren Stauffenberg and Richter seem to have been devoted, not so much to a consideration of its illegality as to its effects on the present situation. This is, however, a question which concerns Prince Bismarck more than his opponents. He may have been acting strictly within the limits of the Constitution; but it would have been discreet to have roused public opinion at a moment more opportune than the present, and in a manner less irritating. Public functionaries who are favourable to the existing state of affairs are not likely to play false to their Sovereign at the polls, while those who may be less friendly will not, if human nature is the same in Germany as in lands further west, be inclined to avail themselves of the bait to further the purposes of a Minister who has so bluntly ordered them to attend to what he considers their duty. Its effect on the nation at large will be even more prejudicial. Liberty, as we understand it, has never been quite grasped in Germany. Then it is true, to use the words of Professor Freitzhke, the Sovereign "has always borne responsibility before God and man"—thus making a marked distinction between moral and legal responsibility—and his claims have to a certain extent been allowed by the nation. But until the issue of this Rescript the people were beginning to recognise Divine Right and Personal Rule as merely shadowy attributes kept in stock, though never intended to be actually called into use. They now know differently, and the reminder has wounded their amour propre. Even the Professors of the University have addressed their students on the great question of the day, and the opinion seems to be that unless Prince Bismarck wishes to force on a desperate Constitutional struggle, with the object of abolishing the present Imperial Parliament altogether, his conduct appears to be extremely unwise. It is hardly likely that he harbours such an intention, though it is no secret that his antipathy to the Reichstag, as at present constituted, is so decided that he would be rejoiced to see it replaced by a body more obedient to his will. But the effect of the Rescript on the other Constituent States of the Empire has been more unfavourable than on Prussia itself. In that Kingdom its principles very fairly reflect the practice of civil servants during elections. In the majority of the German States, however, its maxims are in conflict with express prescriptions of the law, and as the *Cologne Gazette* points out, with long Constitutional usage. The end result is still hard to anticipate. But it is difficult to believe that the Chancellor's latest act, as interpreted by himself on Tuesday, will increase the Conservative minority, or discourage the enemies of order and good government in their evil aspirations.—Standard.

### THE TROUBLES IN BASUTOLAND.

The Capetown correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Tuesday:—Basutoland still continues in a very unsettled state. Many of the Chiefs have, however, unwillingly accepted the award, but at whose head is Masupha, refuse to do so. Mr. Orpen has just made a vigorous effort to capture the rebel Chief, with the cooperation of Letseka and Lerothodi, but has failed in attaining his object. The two Chiefs named have in vain endeavoured to persuade Masupha to lay down his arms and submit to the award, and at last, finding that he refused to recognise the authority of Letseka, they agreed to use force to compel him to submit. Ten thousand horsemen accordingly collected at Masupha under their orders. Mr. Orpen planned himself at their head, they made straight for Thaba Bosigo, his great mountain stronghold. This was seized without any resistance being offered, but it was found that Masupha was absent with the greater portion of his men. Two of Letseka's sons, who are married to Masupha's daughters, were refused to proceed further in the matter, alleging that they had only agreed to a show of force, and no draw off with the followers. This on Friday Orpen with a detachment of his original force, and even these, as was evident by the demeanour of several of the Chiefs, were not to be relied upon. Lerothodi was willing to stand by Mr. Orpen to the end, but the latter saw that the situation was a serious one, and might lead to a general Basuto rising. He, therefore, fell back with the force to Maseru. The feeling throughout Basutoland in general is in favour of peace, the influence of the so-called National Party, led by Masupha, is great, and the future of events must be considered as very uncertain.

### PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

A memorial from the Jews of England on behalf of their oppressed brethren in Russia, was presented to the Russian Ambassador, for transmission to the Emperor of Russia. The Prince, however, acting under instructions from his Government, declined to transmit the memorial. The document was signed and presented to the Chief Rabbi, Rev. A. L. Green. Rev. A. Lowy, Dr. A. Asher, Messrs. Benjamin L. Cohen, Lionel L. Cohen, Lewis Emanuel, Ellis A. Franklin, Alf. Goldsmid, Henry Harris, Alfred G. Henriques, Nathan S. Joseph, Fred. D. Mossat, Samuel Montagu, Morris S. Oppenheim, Isaac Seligman, Leopold Schloss, and Joseph Sebag. The following is the full text of the memorial:—"To His Imperial Majesty Alexander III., Emperor of All the Russias. The humble memorial of the Jews of England on behalf of the Jews of Russia. "May it please your Imperial Majesty,—A grievous cry of suffering has reached us from our brethren in faith in many parts of your Majesty's great Empire. For the past nine months large numbers of your Majesty's Jewish subjects, especially those residing in the southern provinces of your Majesty's dominions, have been the victims of serious civil outbreaks. The security of life and property, so many years enjoyed by them, has vanished. Murder, rapine, and pillage have taken its place. The most terrible deeds of

violence have been perpetrated on helpless women and children. Unarmed and unoffending men have become a prey to the fury of a brutal mob. The survivors, scarcely more fortunate than the slain, live only to find their homes devastated or burnt, their fortunes wrecked, and their means of subsistence gone. Great, indeed, is our horror at these atrocities, but greater still, we feel certain, must be your gracious Majesty's pain and indignation at the sufferings thus inflicted on thousands of your subjects.

Until last year Jews and Christians throughout your Majesty's empire lived on terms of family rarely, if ever, disturbed. No act of the Jews has been committed to warrant the interruption of the friendly attitude of their neighbours or the goodwill of their rulers. As to Jews, as themselves, their synagogues pray for your welfare. They respect the laws and pay the State its just dues. They serve your Majesty in peace and war, even without hope or chance of promotion, and willingly lay down their lives for the country that has given them birth, and that has hitherto protected them. In truth, they are commanded by our sacred books to promote the welfare of the land which shelters them; to obey its laws, to honour its rulers, and to love, as themselves, their neighbours, though differing in faith; and the Israelites, acting in conformity with those precepts, are innocent of cause for the oppression that has befallen them.

We have reason to believe that in most cases it has been the honest, law-abiding neighbours of the Jews who have originated or perpetuated these lamentable excesses, but professional agitators from a distance, acting upon the turbulent and revolutionary spirits, have been largely instrumental in the work. A better proof of this than the fact that the ringleaders have in many localities, with an audacity and shamelessness unparalleled in history, traitorously used the august name of your Majesty as a warrant for their lawless and unprovoked acts, is the fact that a forged ukase purporting to authorise the general spoliation of the Jews. But we fear the cup of affliction of our brethren is not yet full, for the future appears even blacker than the past. The enemies of the Jews, who have been seeking to palliate the atrocities that have been perpetrated, falsely declaring the Jews to have merited their persecution by their own misconduct, by their odious mode of trading, and by their having over-reached their customers, have been endeavouring to induce the Government of your Majesty to impose upon all Israelites such new restrictions as to residence, occupation, and education, as will not only prevent their free competition with their Christian fellow-subjects, but will practically prevent their becoming useful citizens and servants of the State, and will even deprive them from earning their subsistence. We have heard with alarm and grief that commissions have been sent to inquire into the charges of immorality and dishonesty, and to report on the terms of good fellowship with their neighbours, and where, until the lamentable events of last month, they have always enjoyed immunity from outrage of any kind, like commissions have been issued with similar objects, to inquire into the conduct of your Majesty's dominions, the populace seems to imagine that it has the Imperial sanction for its ill-treatment of our brethren, an idea which we are convinced could never have been, however faintly, conceived by your Majesty's prudent and humane spirit of your Majesty.

Already, deplorable results have ensued from the terms in which these commissions have been issued. For many local authorities, in anticipation of the reports of such commissions, have put in force ancient laws of domicile, which had fallen into desuetude, and have forcibly driven the Jews, still smarting from their recent calamities, away from the towns and villages which they have so long peacefully inhabited. While others, perhaps, a little less inhuman, have allowed them to remain, only on condition of their being kept up within the limits of their ancient ghettos.

With regard to the imputations which have been made against your Majesty's Jewish subjects, we humbly submit to your Majesty that whatever exceptional social position they may occupy, or whatever failings may be charged to some of them, these are due mainly to the exceptional laws to which they have been subjected, and not to any inherent defect in their character. In some places, undue activity has characterised their conduct in certain trades and occupations, we believe it to be because other means of earning a subsistence have been denied them, because they have been too crowded in particular places, and have therefore been driven to the greatest difficulty in gaining a livelihood. We feel certain that if the special laws affecting the Jews were abolished their exceptional status, social and civil, would no longer be heard of. Complaints would cease, commerce and industry would flourish, and the economic activity operating to the detriment of others in the Jewish community would be dispersed themselves at will so as to become merged amid their fellow-subjects, and so that everywhere there would be no longer any crowded hives of industry. Here in England, where perfect civil and religious equality has been granted to us, we English Jews can bear grateful testimony to the happy results effected by such a policy. No elevation in the position of the Jews, civil, commercial, and educational which formerly oppressed us have happily been removed, and as a result, Jew and Christian here live and work side by side on terms of mutual respect and good fellowship. The corner house into Essex-road contains the chambers in which Oliver Goldsmith lived and worked and died. That staircase must have been known to many men of letters whose names are now famous and, if we may judge of the friends of a man from the man himself, to many a poor struggling scribbler and literary hack, whom the kind-hearted poet befriended, and to whom he lent the money he had himself borrowed. Reynolds and Johnson and Burke must often have paused at that doorway, and it was round that that strange concourse of mourners, where Sir John Forster has described and Mr. Ward has painted, assembled on the morning when Goldsmith's death was first known as a public event. The ill news travelled fast to the studio in Leicester-square, where Sir Joshua, when he heard it, laid his palette down and trusted himself to do no more work that day. It is strange to see how the Temple has been bound up with the lives of so many of the noted men of this generation, and it is strange to find how nearly all the houses thus rendered famous have one by one disappeared. This house of poor Goldsmith is almost the last of them. Johnson himself lived at No. 1, Inner Temple-lane, where a new row of houses now bears his name. At the bottom of the lane, opposite the church porch, Boswell took up his residence, and he near his idol. The site is occupied by a very different structure. Not far off, in fact just within the gate, Burke had his chambers up two pair of stairs, and in that same row of houses, half a century later, Charles Lamb found a resting-place for himself, his sister, and many of his friends. One by one the old houses have been pulled down, and the new ones built up. The names of these great authors haunt the Temple, but their local habitations are no longer to be found. 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**PRICE 40 CENTIMES**

At the Leek Board of Guardians, on Wednesday day, the relieving officers, Messrs. J. H. Clowes, of Biddulph, Macclesfield, and Mr. J. H. Clowes, of Biddulph, Macclesfield, and Mr. J. H. Clowes, of Biddulph, Macclesfield, who for about sixteen months had been relieving officers, consequent upon her husband's conviction for the wounding Isaac Brooks, had been released from their duties. The Chairman (Mr. H. L. Johnson) said:—Under the circumstances, he had no alternative but to stop the relief. No medical relief had been sent in, although the man was in a weak state of health, and the relieving officers of the whole circuit were ought to be sent to the Home Secretary in order that he might be the better able to estimate the amount of compensation to which Clowes was entitled, and the better able to do justice to the claimant. Mr. Swain said:—The position of the claimant was an admirable one, and would not only relieve the feelings of the guardians but give great satisfaction all over the country. No greater miscarriage of justice had occurred since the war, and the relief of the suffering, poverty and disgrace which Johnson and Clowes and their wives and families had been subjected, they would not confess that the amount of compensation could not be met from the money they had been released from. From some of the relief, the absolute pauperism, the stigma of which would remain, no matter what sum Sir William Harcourt might award them. The Chairman said he had made the statement in the hope











